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Thursday December 5 1996

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Australia AU 30	Ireland IE 25	Portugal P 200
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Bangladesh T 100	Japan J 100	Romania R 10
Belgium BF 65	Korea S 100	Russia RS 2.75
Bolivia B 1.00	Latvia LV 25	Small Arab R 10
Brazil BR 100	Lithuania LT 25	South Africa S 10
Canada C 20.00	Malaysia M 150	Spain S 160
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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,726

Emma Forrest on the charity record phenomenon

Can poor people help Dumfries?



Books

Seamus Deane: Guardian Fiction Award winner

OnLine

Christmas gifts for computer buffs

War pensions cover-up

Ministers cut £50m of veterans' cash

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

BLATANT "sweeteners" are being offered by ministers to try to buy off protests over a £50 million package of cuts in war pensions, disclosed in the Budget as simplification of the rules to help disabled ex-servicemen and war widows.

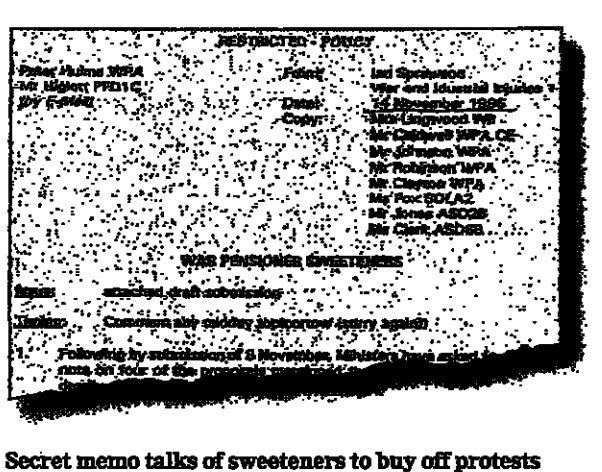
Confidential documents seen by the Guardian show the £1 million sweeteners, described as such by officials, have been devised to "help to

split the ex-service lobby" in its reaction to the cuts.

Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, has warned that the Government "faces a storm" over the package. In a letter to William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, he has put on record that he opposed the most controversial cut, which will hit war veterans growing increasingly dear.

This cut, due to be revealed today, will stop 10,000 people a year getting a higher disability pension because their hearing is deteriorating after being damaged during military service.

Mr Lilley told Mr Waldegrave:



grave: "You will recall that I said at the bilateral (spending negotiations) that all my ministers were against this move, and it is not something we would choose to do, but in the end it is not a matter over which there is any choice."

When the Government last made a cut in this area, in 1983, there was an outcry. That change, the first in the war pensions scheme since it started in 1947, stopped pensions to people with a hearing impairment assessed at less than 20 per cent.

The new cuts package was described in the Budget small print as "proposals to simplify policy and procedures", which "will make claims easier to process and eliminate inconsistent entitlement conditions". The Whitehall documents show it will, in fact, produce "around 500 gainers (all war widows) and about 7,000-10,000 losers" — nearly all war disablement pensioners.

This figure excludes those to be hit by the additional curb on higher deafness pensions, which is forecast to stop 10,000 veterans a year getting a bigger pension. The eventual annual saving is put at £35 million of the total £50 million envisaged.

Cuts contained in the basic package, for implementation next year, include limiting new war pension awards to people with a disability assessed at more than 40 per cent; barring new claims from anybody over 65; phasing out the rent allowance for war widows; and stopping the issue of reminders to people

to return claim forms or to seek an increase in entitlement.

In his letter, Mr Lilley says presentation of the package will be "extremely difficult at this sensitive time". He urges Mr Waldegrave to agree four proposed sweeteners "if the Government is going to be in a position to defend itself".

Stressing the cheapness of the sweeteners, Mr Lilley says: "I believe this to be well worthwhile given the storm that we face over the changes already agreed."

The four measures are:

- Payment to all those receiving a clothing allowance, mainly amputees, of the higher rate of the allowance — £334 a year, rather than £25. Cost is put at £350,000 a year.
- Extension of payment of funeral grants to the families of disabled war pensioners. The change is forecast to apply in just 55 cases a year and cost £60,000.
- Abolition of rank differentials in gratuities paid for non-hearing disabilities of less than 20 per cent severity. This will apply in 10,000-15,000 new cases annually at a cost of up to £750,000 and the documents warn that "we may be accused of trying to 'buy off' critics".
- Payment of a one-off grant of a minimum £100,000 towards a refurbishment appeal for the independently-run Chaselye home for disabled ex-service personnel.

The first three of these measures had been added to the basic cuts package before details of it were sent last week to the consultative central advisory committee on war pensions. It has until mid-January to respond.

Leader comment, page 8

Howard ups payouts to head off guns revolt

Alan Travis, Home Affairs Editor

THE compensation bill for handgun owners will soar from £25 million to £150 million because of further concessions to be announced by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, to head off embarrassing Commons revolts.

The latest Home Office estimate is six times the original figure quoted as the price of buying up 160,000 higher calibre weapons when the gun control legislation was first published six weeks ago.

The extra concessions come after pressure from up to 30 backbench Tory MPs over the Firearms Bill now going through the Commons. The ban on higher calibre handguns is expected to come into force in the new year.

The Home Secretary is poised to announce that he will extend the market value compensation scheme for individual gun owners to firearm dealers so that they will not face financial loss as a result of the destruction of their stocks. The gun trade has claimed that as many as 3,000 jobs will go as a result of the firearms ban.

The compensation bill is also to be swelled by a further decision to buy in accessories held by shooters.

These items not only include shoulder holsters, ammunition and spare parts but also bullet-making machinery and handloading equipment which can be worth thousands of pounds to individual gun owners.

About £12 million is expected to be paid out to the owners of the smaller .22 calibre pistols which will remain legal after the ban comes into effect next month.

The owners of the 40,000 smaller calibre pistols will also be paid the market value for their weapons if they are prepared to forfeit them.

It is expected that some owners of smaller calibre guns will no longer live within reasonable travelling distance of a gun club which has a sufficient standard of security to allow weapons to be stored legally.

The Government has said it will pay compensation to handgun owners the market value of the individual weapon on October 15, the day before Michael Howard announced the ban in the House of Commons. Home Office estimates of the final bill are based on the assumption that they will pay out an average of £100 to £150 for every gun surrendered. Most of the weapons will be melted down.

Mr Howard had already softened the original package by announcing that "heritage weapons" such as antique pistols would not be covered by the ban.

In the Commons yesterday the Government agreed to Labour demands to review the current age limits for using shotguns and airguns. At present, the law allows 14 and 15-year-olds to fire both types of weapon. The official Firearms Consultative Committee is to be asked to look at the issue.

Home Office Minister Ann Widdecombe also announced that paint-ball guns and other low-powered compressed carbon dioxide weapons would be exempted from the new gun controls.

In the Commons debate last night Tory chairman of the Defence Select Committee Michael Colvin (Romsey and Waterside) supported the call for more compensation.

He described the Government's planned compensation package as "nothing short of legalised robbery" and added: "It's only right that there should be proper arrangements for full compensation."

Mr Colvin said the Government's response to Dumblane had ignored the recommendations of Lord Cullen's inquiry and was destroying the sport of target shooting.

"It jeopardises the future of all British shooting sports and does nothing to stop criminals getting guns illegally."

Earlier the British Shooting Sports Council urged the Government to back a move which it claims would save some gun clubs, forced to introduce expensive security measures, from closure.

Art spotting



Kitaj or college student? Bowie or budding talent? For £30, the choice is yours

Another, featuring a sheep in a glass tank, one of several homages to Damien Hirst featuring farmyard animals, was bought for the obvious influence of the highly marketable Britpack.

The third, a landscape, was bought as a nod to conventional fine art values, and the fourth, a line drawing, was bought at random, chosen by its number.

Artists exhibiting in the show, titled *Absolut Secret*, include established figures such as Frank Auerbach, Patrick Caulfield, Anthony Whishaw, R B Kitaj, Eduardo Paolozzi, Claus Oldenburg and Paula Rego.

Young British artists are represented by Turner Prize nominee Simon Patterson, Tracy Emina and Marc Quinn. A strong celebrity contingent is led by George Melly, Vic Reeves and Holly Johnson. Only one artist is listed as "Anon".

Proceeds from the show, which raised £19,000 last year, go to the college's fine art student fund.

"The idea is that you judge things visually," said RCA spokesman Aubrey Green. "You're really left to your wits. You come away with something you like."

Although it may free some art lovers of the prejudices of prior knowledge, others come turn to page 2, column 7

The Guardian

To our readers,

Over recent weeks, we have been experiencing production problems which have seriously affected our distribution in some countries.

We have now installed new transmission equipment at both our overseas print sites — an investment which will ensure a regular and timely distribution of The Guardian International to our readers all over the world.

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The war crimes tribunal accused the peace conference on Bosnia of ignoring efforts to bring to trial those accused of war atrocities.

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Sketch

The Fabb One: the early years



Simon Hoggart

USKD to smoke up to 60 cigarettes a day, and giving up was awful. But I was helped by the certainty that if I had even one puff I would have worked my way through a whole packet by dusk. Secondly, kind friends offered constant support. Now, 23 years later, smoking is no longer a temptation — except, of course, after meals. None of this applies to Michael Fabricant. At the beginning of the new parliamentary session, I resolved not to mention him again. I had written enough. His feelings were hurt, he sent letters to say so. Also, he didn't seem a big enough target: Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Financial Secretary to the Treasury is not the most glorious position in government. But instead of supporting me in my attempts to cope with cold turkey, friends and acquaintances demanded more. Like so many people (Jeffrey Archer, Michael Heseltine), Fabricant has a real, corporeal existence, but has also become a well-loved character in popular fiction. I received desperate pleas for more Fabricant news. Fabricant-intensive mail piled up on my desk. Colleagues flocked yesterday to tell me that he had a new wig (and I'm afraid it does look that way). So this is the equivalent of my packet of 20, my admission to myself that I have been unable to give up, and might as well give up trying to give up. The other day I got a call from a man who works in radio, but used to be a disc jockey in Brighton during the early 1970s. He too was upset by the lack of Fabricant fun facts, largely because he used to know him. "He had his own mobile disco, working the clubs and the student bars. He called himself Micky Fabb. He had

the same straw-coloured hair, but he wore really nice clothes: tie-dyed shirts and lion pants. There was this terrible neon lighting, and he had a bubble machine. "He'd play these dreadful 70s records, by the Detroit Emeralds and Steppenwolf, and he'd shout out to the dancers, things like 'Get on down!', 'Shake that thing', and 'Strut yo' funky stuff!' " "He was terrible, but I was probably worse. I learned his real name because I bought some disco equipment from a shop in Brighton called Sound & Light. He asked me to make the cheque out to 'Michael Fabricant.' " "Naturally, I was suspicious of this story. Could it be a plant, designed to win money in an expensive libel case (accusing someone of wearing lion pants and being called Micky Fabb could be worth twenty grand any day)? " I rang Sound & Light, which is still trading, and asked the man who answered, "does the name of Michael Fabricant mean anything?" "Yes-o-s," said the voice, "he still comes in now and again." "Was he a disc jockey in the Brighton area back in the early 70s, working under the nom de disque Micky Fabb?" "Yup. That was when he had his own hair." "What?" I yelled, convinced that the greatest mystery in British politics was now solved. "I think I've said quite enough," said my new friend, and he brought the conversation hurriedly to a close. The next evening came second-hand, from a BBC make-up artist who had plastered the slap on Mr Fabricant at TV Centre the other night. She reported: "He has this really orange face, as if he uses Instant Tan, but his ears are completely white. And his hair is like straw." "Sadly, she had not made a grab at the hair, since this is discouraged by the Corporation. But it set me thinking. Could it be that the Instant Tan is actually orange Snow-cream? And that the white ears are painted? Combined with the thatched roof, it implies that Mr Fabricant is not only a senior legislator, an academic economist, a soulful disc jockey, but also a Grade II listed building. I see him as a delightful country cottage. *Dun Spinnin'.*

Review

Three Heads no better than one

Garth Cartwright

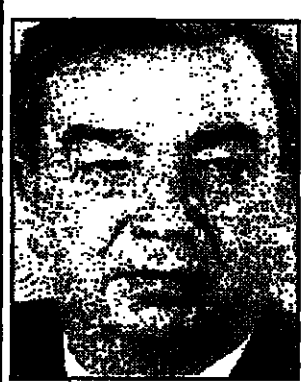
The Heads Hanover Grand

THE Sex Pistols did not need Sid Vicious to make a go of it, but Talking Heads without David Byrne? Agreed, impossible, so his Manhattan musical chums have set themselves in business as The Heads. When David Byrne decided to pull the plug on Talking Heads in 1990 the three lesser Heads were not inactive. As the Tom Tom Club, bassist Tina Weymouth and drummer Chris Frantz had given the world Worldy Rappinghood, and went on to produce the infamous final Rappy Mondays album. Keyboardist Jerry Harrison's solo efforts were empty vehicles, so he too settled into production. Byrne's solo efforts overshadowed them all. Hence this reunion of sorts. Avoiding the trap of many successful groups who end acrimoniously, The Heads make no attempt to emulate or replace Byrne. An album, No Talking Just Head, has them employing a variety of friends on vocals, including INXS's Michael Hutchence, Black Grape's Shaun Ryder and Blondie's Debbie Harry. As a rock pick-and-mix, No Talking has flavour while highlighting that Byrne's nervy musical vision was unique. For their London debut The Heads were fronted by Juliette Napolitano, lately of the minor-league US rockers Con-

crete Blonde. The audience's collective heads revolved every time a roadie neared the stage, hoping for the odd famous gift. Shaun Ryder may often be mistaken for road crew but unfortunately the head Grape was not in the house. The toned-headed Harrison could pass for Michael Hutchence's blagger brother but Paula's man did not make an appearance. Nor did any other guests. Napolitano features on two of the album's 12 tracks. Live, she sings them all. The Heads would probably like to pass this off as some sort of art statement. Whatever, the hugely confident Napolitano seized every song. Weymouth and Frantz remain one of the tightest rhythm sections in rock. Harrison exercised a tasteful array of effects. Napolitano and the guitarist, Blast Murray, kept on the collective Heads made a real attempt to transport everyone back into the New York groove. The Heads have devolved into something of an extended power trio. Back in 1977 they swore allegiance to Al Green rather than Iggy Pop, so put the first glimmers of funk into punk. But having opened with Memories Can't Wait and closed with Psycho Killer, both by Byrne-era standards, they remain a shadow of their original selves. Until David Byrne decides his bank balance needs a topping up, it is best if the memories can wait a little longer. *This review appeared in later editions yesterday.*

New power-sharing plan could buy off Moscow's opposition to expansion into eastern Europe

Nato offers Russia a veto



Yevgeny Primakov: Forum seems to allay his concerns

David Fabhall Defence Correspondent

RUSSIA may be offered joint chairmanship of a new 17-member Nato forum in an effort to buy off its opposition to the alliance's expansion into eastern Europe. The proposal, to be discussed at next week's meeting of Nato foreign ministers in Brussels, would give Russia the "political membership" it seeks. It would have a permanent voice — in effect a veto — in nearly all external matters apart from collective ter-

ritorial defence, a cosy relationship that would have been unthinkable a few years ago. The dispatch of Nato peacekeeping forces to Bosnia, for instance, or their withdrawal, would be decided in the new council. Those promoting the idea, including the Germans and some elements in the United States administration, have not yet devised a name for their creation. Many sensitive questions remain to be resolved, such as how it would relate to the 16-country North Atlantic Council, which already holds separate meetings with the Russians on a "16 plus one" basis.

The purpose, however, is to persuade Moscow that Nato is serious about wanting a partnership, and that Russia has nothing to fear from parallel plans to invite several East European countries to become full members of the alliance. More specifically, it seems to answer two sensitive points raised by the Russian foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov, at a private meeting with Nato officials in Berlin earlier this year — that Russia deserves more than consultation about decisions already taken in "smoke-filled rooms", and that it will not tolerate the establishment

of new nuclear bases near its western borders. Next week's Brussels meeting is expected to answer the second complaint by declaring publicly that there is no requirement to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in eastern Europe "under foreseeable circumstances". This is not a problem for Nato, since Norway and Denmark already forbid the peacetime stationing of foreign troops and nuclear weapons on their territory. Giving Russia what amounts to political membership of Nato, though excluding military matters covered by Article V of the North At-

lantic Treaty, which binds full members to defend each other's territory, would be more problematic. It might alarm candidates like Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, which are seeking to escape permanently from Moscow's sphere of influence; still more so the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, formerly part of the Soviet Union. If the new forum does materialise, it will become a central feature of the charter Nato hopes to sign Russia up to next summer, as invitations to full membership are issued to the former Soviet satellites.

Asprey, sponsor to royals, for added sparkle

Kamal Ahmed

CELEBRATION to mark the Queen's 50th wedding anniversary next summer will be sponsored by Asprey, giving the royal jewellers unprecedented worldwide publicity and 90 minutes of live BBC television coverage. Taking part in the the Royal Pageant of the Horse in Windsor Great Park will be more than 1,400 horses, 120 carriages and 600 musicians, including the Bach Choir conducted by Sir David Willcocks. Asprey said their financial contribution to the event, which is expected to cost £1.5 million, was "considerable". Tickets for the 25,000 spectators, who will sit in specially built stands, will cost between £40 and £60, with no reductions for children.



A carriage and four horses outside Asprey's to launch its sponsorship of the pageant marking the Queen's 50th wedding anniversary PHOTOGRAPH: STEFAN REM

Events of this size are expensive to put on," said Major Michael Parker, the head of the organising committee. "Those that can't afford to come will be able to see it live on television. "It is impossible to run a major event with no public money without a sponsor. We are a non-profit making organisation and any money that is left over at the end will be shared between horse and animal charities. It is going to be amazingly good fun."

London to mark the Queen Mother's 90th birthday in 1999 was funded by charitable organisations, including the Gosling Foundation, chaired by Sir David Gosling, chairman of NCP car parks. "Royal associations are useful for private companies," said Frank Prochaska, author of Royal Bounty: The Making of a Welfare Monarchy. "It gives respectability and

publicity of the very best sort. To have an association with class is very important, particularly for a company like Asprey." Major Parker, a former member of the organising committees for the VE and VJ Day celebrations, said the idea for a horse pageant was thought up during a cocktail party. Other members of the pageant committee include Colonel Sir Piers Bengough, the

Queen's representative at Ascot, and Lieutenant Colonel Seymour Gilbert-Denham, the Crown Equerry and head of the Royal Mews' carriages and horses. The pageant will start at 9.30pm and will trace the history of the horse throughout the world. All types of horses — from Shetland ponies to carthorses — will take part in the event which an Asprey

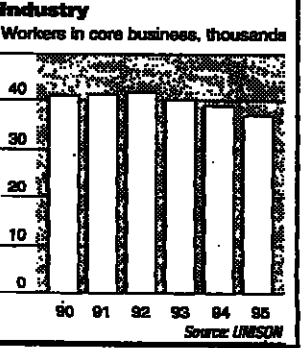
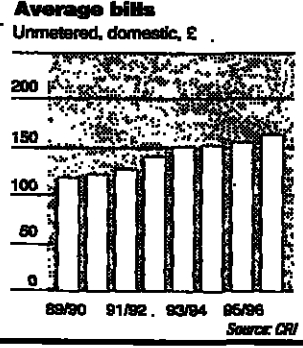
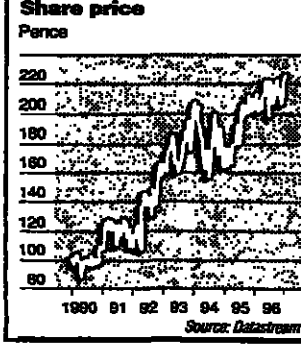
spokesman described as a "spectacular piece of theatre". A cheaper day event will take place on a separate field, with tickets likely to cost £5 per car. Buckingham Palace pointed out that the Queen had been approached independently by the committee and that the pageant was a semi-informal affair celebrating her and her husband's love of horses.

Water bills up 42 pc after sell-off

Celia Weston Industrial Correspondent

DIRE warnings about the cost to consumers of privatising the water industry appeared to be proven yesterday when an independent research group revealed that average bills have risen by nearly 42 per cent in real terms in the seven years since the water firms were sold by the Tories. The findings come on top of the controversy about excessive salary deals for senior executives at the 10 regional companies, and the payment of inflated dividends to shareholders ahead of the possible imposition of a windfall tax by a Labour government. Frank Dobson, Labour's environment spokesman, said the companies had no need to put up prices. Investment levels had fallen, while profits had topped £10 billion and dividends worth £3 billion had been paid out. "This industry has hardly been regulated. Labour will make sure in future that regulation is in the interests of the customers and the environment."

Water in the UK



Southern Water confirmed last night that it is to jettison half its workforce — 2,000 out of 3,900 people — in a cost-cutting drive following its takeover by Scottish Power earlier this year. The company yesterday announced interim pre-tax profits were up 31 per cent to £167 million. Alex Thompson, head of water at the trade union, Unison, said the size of the job losses was shocking and branded the water companies "get-rich-quick merchants".

The research on price rises from the Centre for the Study of Regulated Industries says that the average bill for the 92 per cent of consumers not on a metered water supply has increased from £11.95 to £169.99. Sewerage costs have also increased from £93.12 to £205.75. The centre, an independent offshoot of the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy, says the main reason for larger bills has been the requirement for

water companies to invest in improvements designed to meet more stringent environmental criteria demanded by EU regulation. Companies have also had to spend more on modernising water mains and sewers. But the tougher pricing regime implemented by Ian Byatt, the director of water regulation at Ofwat, earlier this year was supposed to prevent the water companies from passing those investment costs on to consumers.

For £30, pick your own masterpiece

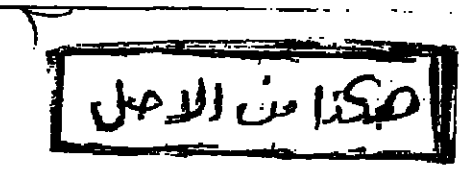
continued from page 1 to the exhibition to buy a work by a famous artist for £30. "The most popular is the Auerbach," said Mr Green. "Everyone was running around trying to find it." While many of the works are sold on the first night, one of last year's star purchases, by Patrick Caulfield, remained unsold until the last day. "I don't normally buy things to make money. We normally work the other way around," said Julian Vilarubi, a painter, standing some way back in the queue to register his purchase with Adrian Black, a businessman. "I think I've bought a couple of John Bellamy's and an Albert Irving," said Mr Vilarubi, checking down a list of artists written in pen on his hand. Mr Black was less worried about the investment potential of his purchases. "I've just bought three things because I like them,"

he said. "And anyway, the odds are better than the National Lottery." Nikki Taylor, another buyer, bought a piece last year that turned out to be by a student. But she wasn't put off. "I just buy things because I like them," she said. "Anyway, I don't think you can second-guess because some people try to disguise their work." Alan Miller, an organiser of the exhibition, said that although some artists may have tried to disguise their work, others were easy to spot. "It depends how well you know the work," he said. "There are elements of the artists that are recognisable." The benefits for the artists are that it frees them from the need to live up to preconceived notions about their work, said Mr Green. "There's no gallery pressure saying you've got to conform. No critic is going to say your postcard phase marked a significant downturn in your career."



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Eurostar staff at Waterloo station, London, yesterday wait for the passengers who never came, as Channel tunnel services resumed

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN GOWEN

Eurotunnel's long walk to fire safety

Almost empty trains highlight concerns as passenger services begin

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

A FIVE-MONTH delay in the full operation of services through the Channel tunnel was forecast by Eurotunnel last night, as it emerged that rail passengers will have to walk up to 1 1/2 miles to safety if they need to be evacuated at the point of last month's fire. Eurostar services resumed yesterday, although the first train of the day left Waterloo without any passengers. It had acquired four by the time it reached Paris. The company said later trains to Paris and Brussels were about 10-15 per cent full and it had taken "hundreds of bookings" for the next few days. But concern that passenger services were being resumed too quickly came from the Fire Brigades' Union, the shadow employment secretary, Andrew Smith, and even some Tory MPs with constituencies on the Channel route. They said Eurotunnel had given no explanation for the fire, which damaged 600 yards of tunnel and track, or why several safeguards had failed. Different evacuation procedures will be brought into play if a fire occurs during repair work in the damaged tunnel section. Passengers will be evacuated into the safe area of the service tunnel and will walk to the nearest alternative rail access point — a maximum distance of 1 1/2 miles — in the other running tunnel to board a tourist Le Shuttle and get out. Eurotunnel's emergency ve-

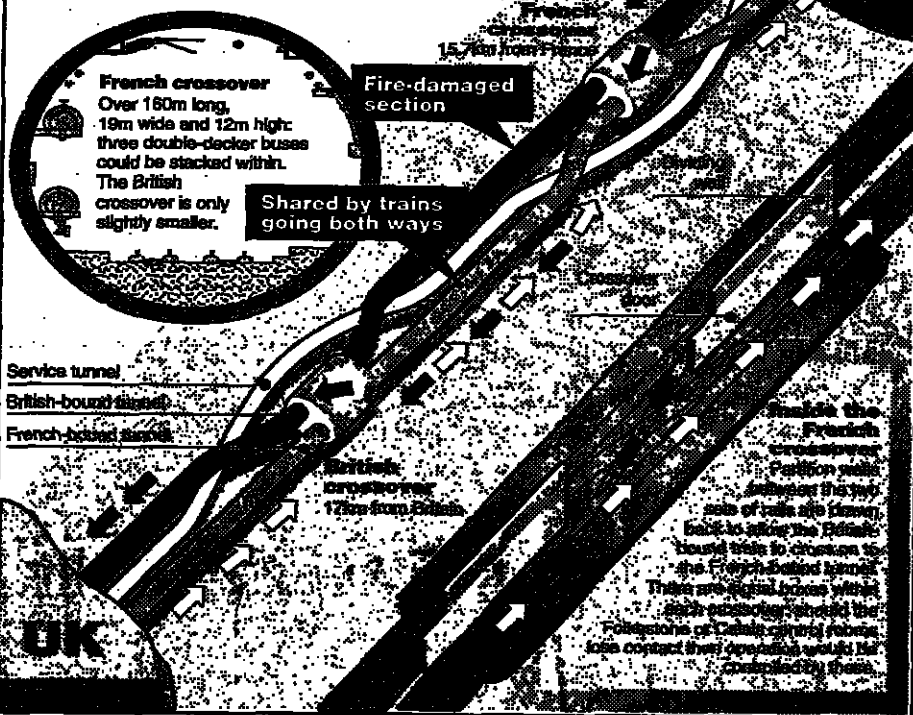
The questions

The questions Eurotunnel still has not answered:

- Did arson cause the fire?
- Was the wildcat strike of Eurotunnel workers at Calais a contributory factor?
- Why was Calais control not alerted to stop the train after security guards had seen fire?
- Why did it take an hour to alert the Kent fire brigade?
- Why was the driver not alerted until he had been in the tunnel for two miles?
- Why did the driver stop the train?
- Does the incident prove the open latticed freight wagons are unsafe?
- Why did the ventilation systems fail to disperse the smoke?
- Why did smoke get into the other, sealed, tunnel?

Crossed lines

To avoid the fire-damaged section (in the British-bound tunnel) trains are making use of the two gigantic crossovers built to allow trains to pass from one tunnel to another.



hicles will be permanently stationed to tackle the incident and transport disabled, elderly and infirm passengers who are incapable of completing the walk. A longer time of around two hours has been stipulated to clear all passengers from the tunnel. Until the repairs are completed, journeys are likely to take an extra 20 to 30 minutes. A few trains from Brussels to London will take up to 45 minutes longer. The additional time is needed to run trains over the single-line section of tunnel, and then integrate them into the networks of the three railways when they exit the tunnel. To avoid the fire-ravaged section, trains coming from

France are entering the southern tunnel, travelling some 10 1/4 miles before crossing over to the northern tunnel for a further 10 1/4 miles. They then rejoin the southern tunnel again for the final part of their journey. Both Robert Malpas, Eurotunnel's co-chairman, and Adam Mills, Eurostar UK's deputy chairman, rejected suggestions they were putting profit before safety in recommending services. Mr Malpas said: "Safety is absolutely at the top of our list and our prime concern." He said the "safe haven of the service tunnel is totally unaffected by the fire". Asked about a possible return to service of the controversially de-

signed latticed freight trains, he said this could not happen until the full inquiry was over. Sources last night suggested that the safety inquiry will recommend that the latticed wagons be abandoned as a fire hazard. If so, Eurotunnel would have to abandon an order it has recently placed for new ones. Plans are being drawn up to spray the tunnel with a fire protection coating to raise safety standards. Work is expected to start before Christmas and will cost millions of pounds. Fire coating was proposed to the safety authorities in 1993, but rejected. Letters, page 9

'It was like boarding the Marie Celeste.'

Stuart Millar joins the brave

THE normally bustling platforms of London Waterloo's Eurostar terminal were strangely quiet yesterday, despite the resumption of passenger services after a fraught 15 days. Staff assumed their usual positions, but fare-paying passengers who turned up to be among the first through the tunnel after "the incident" were few and far between. "When we found out the train was running at 9pm last night, we were told to get to the station early to make sure we got a seat," said Geraldine Turner, from Kent. "When we got here it was like getting on board the Marie Celeste." She and her friend, Sharon Haydn, were making the trip for lunch and shopping. They were among an international gathering of 23 brave souls

who ventured on to the 7.53 service to Paris Gare du Nord. Their sense of adventure was quickly rewarded — rather than have them spread throughout a train designed to carry a few shy of 800 passengers, all 23 were herded into first class to be piled with free champagne and bottles of Beaujolais Nouveau with a card bearing the legend "Thank you for your loyalty". Perhaps it was the alcohol, but the atmosphere was more of wartime defiance than trepidation, even as the train slowed to the new speed limit of 60mph as it entered the tunnel. "I think the freight sections are very different from the Shuttle or Eurostar," said Mrs Haydn, who claimed she would have walked to Paris rather than miss her annual outing. "A fire on one of the freight trains would be very different from one on this train. We travel on the Shuttle about six times a year so I don't think this trip is a big deal." Her companion agreed. "We are quite happy to go through it. It seems to me that you are safest just after a disaster." That sentiment was

echoed by John Townend, MP for Bridlington and leading Tory Euro-sceptic, who was travelling with his wife to a meeting of the Western European Union. "I'm more worried about bombs going off in the Paris underground." As usual, it was up to the Americans to sum up the pioneering spirit, boasting the largest national group with 10 passengers. They included David and Andrea Scott, from Minnesota, who booked before the fire and were determined to see it through. As the train reached France after 30 minutes in the tunnel — compared to the normal 21 — Mrs Scott led passengers in a toast to their bravery. Within minutes of leaving Calais, the train manager announced that he had reached our maximum speed of 180mph, whisking us into Paris five minutes early in a total time of just under three and a half hours. The Eurostar officials who made the trip could barely contain their pride. "It was a complete anti-climax for our passengers and that's the way it should be," said Phil Bassett, UK trains manager.

Pensions shock for power chiefs

Watchdog orders National Grid to repay £55m to staff fund

Seamus Milne
Labour Editor

THE National Grid has been ordered by the government-appointed Pensions Ombudsman to repay more than £55 million to its pension scheme, in a decision which could cost the whole privatised electricity industry up to £50 million. More than 200,000 pension fund members stand to benefit from the provisional ruling, made in response to a complaint by two pensioners that the privatised electricity transmission firm was wrong to pocket 70 per cent of a £65 million fund surplus in 1992. The money was mainly used to fund redundancies. The company is expected to appeal to the High Court if the decision is confirmed, but a spokesman would only say last night that it was "looking at the implications" and would respond before the final decision. The ruling by the ombudsman, Dr Julian Farrand, looks certain to intensify the dispute over the appropriation of pension fund surpluses by employers, which was triggered by a 1993 High Court judgment that British Coal could not use nearly £200 million of its staff pension fund to pay for redundancies. Reg Mayes, a 73-year-old retired supergrid engineer — and one of the two men who brought the case against the National Grid and the pension fund's trustees — last night described the decision as "very gratifying". He said he hoped to see some modest increase in his £12,000 a year pension as a result. The two men's solicitor, Peter Woods of Stephens Innocent — which took on the case for free — said he believed Dr Farrand's findings would open the way to a flood

of claims throughout the electricity supply industry. "Employers generally take the view that they're entitled to surpluses," he said, "and generally that view is wrong." The power industry pensions controversy goes back to privatisation in 1989, when the Central Electricity Generating Board and regional boards were split into 21 companies, including the National Grid, and the industry's pension fund was divided up in parallel. In 1992, the National Grid fund was found to have an "actuarial surplus" — an excess of assets over expected pension liabilities — of £22 million. That was divided 70-30 between the company and pension fund members, with the firm's share coming to £44 million — or 555 million with interest since 1993. The split was made roughly on the basis of the previous relative employer-employee contributions to the scheme. But trade union opponents of employers' pension "holidays" and surplus appropriations have always argued that

pension funds represent deferred wages and should belong entirely to the members. The National Grid approach was repeated across the industry, with the general fund of National Power alone taking £176 million from its pensions surplus to cover early retirement costs. Around £500 million from the pension funds was taken over by the privatised firms. But Dr Farrand has found that National Grid and its pension fund trustees — and by extension the other privatised firms — were wrongly advised that the firm had the legal right to help itself to the members' cash. As well as ordering repayment, he argues that the pension fund rules do not allow the company to take contributions holidays or use surpluses to pay for early retirement. Employment in the electricity industry has been cut from 144,000 to around 92,000 since privatisation and from 6,800 to 3,500 in National Grid. The company recently announced more job cuts over the next three or four years.

Meet the family who put fun in dysfunctional

HOLLY HUNTER ROBERT DOWNEY, JR. ANNE BANCROFT DYLAN MCDERMOTT STEVE GUTTENBERG CHARLES DURNING



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Books G2 page 7

"Going home through the smoke-swirls and the noise, the mock-burial parties for the dead rats that were being covered by the clay from the trenches, the poles tipped with knives clashing in skirmishes, I felt so sick that the flesh seemed to tighten on my bones."

From Seamus Deane's Reading In The Dark, Guardian Fiction Prize winner

News in brief

Children sedated before being killed

A POLICEMAN'S wife who killed herself and her two sons after the break-up of her marriage, sedated the children before they were overcome by fumes from her car engine, a senior police officer said yesterday.

Sore throat remedies 'waste'

ANTISEPTIC remedies are about as effective for a sore throat as gargling with warm water, the consumer magazine Which? claimed yesterday. People spent £22 million on sore throat remedies in the past year, but although some may have antiseptic or anaesthetic properties, there is no evidence they offer more relief than any other boiled sweet.

Homosexual kiss 'acceptable'

A HOMOSEXUAL kiss in EastEnders was ruled acceptable yesterday by the Broadcasting Standards Council, which investigated complaints from 41 viewers. The council said the BBC had reflected contemporary themes in a realistic manner.

£5m appeal for laser surgery

THE small Yorkshire port of Goole was chosen yesterday as the site for a national laser centre for the day-surgery treatment of cancer patients using optical fibre equipment. A £5 million appeal was launched at Goole and district hospital where a small unit led by Keyvan Moghissi receives requests for treatment from across the country.

Unconscious woman dies

A WOMAN who gave birth to a daughter while in a coma has died in hospital, Karen Battenbough, aged 25, died in Clydach hospital, Swansea, after being unconscious for 22 months. Her kidneys failed after pneumonia set in.

Cash for 'cool Britannia'

THE UK's "cool Britannia" image helped boost the number of overseas visitors by 2 million to 20.4 million in the first nine months of this year, an 11 per cent rise on the previous year, the Office of National Statistics said.

Attacks follow dispute over cheaper fares

Taxi fire fuels fear of cab war

TAXI OWNER Martin Leonard became suspicious after the wheel nuts on one of his cars became faulty and the brakes on another started to fail. But when a stationary black cab was mysteriously destroyed by fire in a car park this week he knew that someone was out to get him.



Martin Leonard of the Darlington Cab Company with a burned out taxi. Mr Leonard claims rival firms have targeted him

Yesterday detectives warned of the potentially fatal consequences from the latest outbreak of "cab wars" in Darlington, Co Durham, as the local council expressed its concern and offered Mr Leonard a helping hand.

Waiting and have no meters. Tensions have been high since the council ruled that special tokens for the elderly and disabled could only be used in wheelchair-friendly cabs.

But attempts by drivers to overturn the ruling failed in the High Court, and now the council is taking action against 35 operators to recover its legal costs. Some face ruin as a result.

Someone wants me out of business," said Mr Leonard yesterday. "Wheel nuts don't unscrew themselves, brake

pins don't fall off for no reason, and black cabs don't just burst into flames."

Nick Wallis, chairman of Darlington's highway and transport committee, said Mr Leonard had been offered every assistance by the council to get a wheelchair-friendly vehicle on the road.

TUC to rule on union race row at Ford

Truck drivers at Dagenham plant want to switch unions over allegations of nepotism and bias

THE relatively tiny United Road Transport Union, which is not recognised by Ford, has been called in to adjudicate on the decision of 300 truck drivers at Ford's Dagenham plant, heavily involved in a row over racism and nepotism, to switch unions.

against Ford, but the company leaves most of the selection procedure for the Truckfleet division, where a strike could so easily bring the whole company to a standstill, to its senior drivers.

Their defection from the assertively anti-racist T & G, with its black general secretary, Bill Morris, is an acute embarrassment for the trade union movement. Yesterday Mr Morris put the TUC on the spot by demanding that it intervene.

of black people in particular. I would urge URTU once more to desist from this course of action.

Douglas Curtis, head of campaigns and communication at URTU, said his union would do no such thing. "We were approached over two months ago by these drivers who were expressing extreme dissatisfaction, not in an effort to protest a discriminatory system, but protesting at the way they had been treated by their own union, which had decided to take industrial action without consulting them, even though the allegation is the system is being operated by their senior drivers."

Advertisement for Dell Dimension XPS P133s Business Bundle. Features include Intel Pentium III processor, 16MB SDRAM, 512KB cache, 2GB EIDE hard drive, and HP Deskjet 690C printer. Price: £11.99 per week (£14.09 incl. VAT).

Labour left softens new code

Leaders bow to concerns of dissident MPs by accepting clause in new discipline measure that safeguards debate on policy

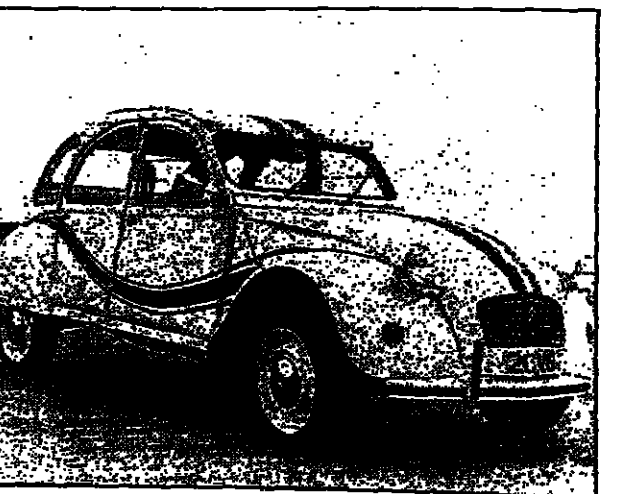
LABOUR dissidents won a significant concession from party leaders yesterday as a code tightening up discipline was adopted. The leadership agreed to insert a commitment that it will not use the code to stifle debate among members of the Parliamentary Labour Party, helping to counter suspicions that the code would be used to pick off trouble-making MPs once the party was in government.

Leaders bow to concerns of dissident MPs by accepting clause in new discipline measure that safeguards debate on policy

secretary, spoke in favour of the code, saying that disruptive behaviour in government could cost the party the chance of being elected for a second term. Arguing against the discipline clause, Dennis Skinner, the leftwing MP for Bolsover, said it was impossible at times to be in line with party policy. He gave as an example the switches on devolution during the summer.

Hyundai gains top spot from Lada and Skoda as hub of bad car jibes

THE JOKES are numerous, the snickers regular. Now owners of Skodas, Ladas and Citroen 2CVs, old ones at least, will have to put up with a new batch of sarcastic comments. Their cars are some of the worst old jalopies in Britain: official.



Citroen 2CV: French design classic with poor resale value

- Old bangers
1. Hyundai Pony GLS, D-reg, 100,000 miles: Worth: £10
2. Seat Marbella, E-reg, 95,000 miles: £20
3. Skoda 105 saloon, E-reg, 95,000 miles: £30
4. Lada Riva 1200 saloon, F-reg, 85,000 miles: £40
5. FSO 1300 saloon, F-reg, 85,000 miles: £50
6. Lancia Y10 Fire, D-reg, 100,000 miles: £70
7. Lada Samara 1500, F-reg, 85,000 miles: £70
8. Fiat Panda 750L, D-reg, 100,000 miles: £70
9. Citroen 2CV6, D-reg, 100,000 miles: £70
10. Ford Fiesta 1.4 Ghia, D-reg, 100,000 miles: £90
Figures based on value to dealers for below average cars

The survey, by Motor Research Ltd, publishers of the trade bible on used car prices, the Black Book, puts the Hyundai Pony in top spot. A 1986 D-registered model in poor condition with 100,000 miles on the clock has a dealer value of £10. The car cost £6,000 new.

A spokeswoman for Skoda, which was taken over by VW in 1991, stoutly defended the car. "Our research tells us that the thousands of owners that are running previous Skoda models are delighted with them."

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

Court told of panic and pupils hiding in fright as man who was obsessed with mass killers slashed at class at a teddy bears' picnic

Teacher saved machete attack tots

Judge praises courage

Vivak Chaudhary

A NURSERY teacher defended her young pupils from a machete-wielding attacker who was obsessed with two mass killers, a court heard yesterday. Lisa Potts, aged 21, described how she tried to get the children into the school during a teddy bears' picnic as she was being slashed.

Police found newspaper cuttings about Thomas Hamilton, who shot dead 16 children and their teacher in Dunblane last March, and Michael Bryant, who shot dead 25 people in Tasmania, on the bedroom wall of Horret Campbell, accused of seven attempted murders.

The picture of Michael Bryant had a heart and cupid's arrow drawn around it. Richard Wakerley, QC, prosecuting said that Campbell had told police that Bryant and Hamilton had been misunderstood by society and "had been driven to do what they did, namely indiscriminately kill others, just as he had been driven to do what he did."

Campbell, aged 33, who



Horret Campbell: 'driven to do what he did'

'I put up my arm to protect my face and he lashed out at me. He was moving towards me as I was trying to run with lots of children around me'

— Lisa Potts

lived in a tower block overlooking St Luke's Church of England infants school in Blackhall, Wolverhampton, where the attack took place, denies attempted murder. He has admitted charges of causing grievous bodily harm with intent and one charge of attempting to cause GBH.

At one stage during the hearing at Stafford crown court yesterday, Ms Potts was handed the blood stained machete used by Campbell. Holding the wooden handle using a plastic glove, she demonstrated the overarm slashing movement Campbell used to slice open four-year-old Francesca Quintyne's face, break-

ing her jaw and lopping off her lower earlobe.

Mr Wakerley said that on the afternoon of July 8, Campbell went into the grounds of St Luke's armed with the machete and attacked three young children, aged between three and four. Ms Potts and three mothers who were waiting outside the school.

A class of 20 children were in the grass area at the side of the school having a teddy bears' picnic.

"A more normal and happy afternoon it is probably impossible to imagine. The attack was indiscriminate. He struck the seven of them mainly about the head, face



Ahmed Malik in hospital, and (right) Lisa Potts, who shepherded children to safety

and upper body, some more than once and some when they were on the ground having been hit. You will not be surprised to learn that most sustained really serious injuries."

Ms Potts said that she saw Campbell attack two of the mothers, Wendy Willington and Surtinder Chopra. She then started running with the children into the school.

"I was then trying to gather the children up. It was crazy from then on. Children were holding on to my skirt and some of them went under-neath. They were hiding with fright."

As she attempted to enter

the school she was confronted by Campbell. "I put up my arm to protect my face and he lashed out at me. He was moving towards me as I was trying to run with lots of children around me."

She then went back to protect other toddlers, putting her arms around them as Campbell slashed at them with the machete. Campbell had used blows of "great force" as he lashed out at the children and her.

Campbell then chased Ms Potts through the nursery class as she attempted to gather the children but despite being hit, she continued running.



School staff warned not to 'play the hero'

Donald MacLeod
Education Correspondent

TEACHERS were warned not to "play the hero" with potentially violent intruders — or parents — as the Government launched a £66 million school security package yesterday.

Extra spending on safety was ordered by Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, following the murder of Philip Lawrence, a London head teacher, and the killing of 16 children and their teacher at Dunblane primary school in Perthshire by the gunman Thomas Hamilton, who then killed himself.

Training for teachers is to be included in the package — funded jointly by central and local government. "Good security involves everyone in the school," said Mrs Shephard.

Leicester university and the Suzy Lamplugh Trust — set up by Diana Lamplugh after the disappearance and presumed murder of her daughter Suzy — will

research violent incidents in schools, which they believe are at present under-reported.

Tony Dickens, of the trust, said lessons in self-defence could be worse than useless for teachers. "People easily forget what they might have learned on a two day course. Then if they decide to intervene they could very easily get hurt."

"Teachers should not see parents on their own in situations where trouble might arise, or they should not do so behind closed doors," he said.

John Andrew, general secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers, who sat on the Government's school security working group, said he hoped teachers were not being encouraged to "play the hero".

"Part of the training has to be not only what to do but what not to do," he said.

"There are circumstances where the best thing to do is to walk away. What teachers need is training on how to recognise the difference."

Food bug victim may sue as death toll rises to 7

Erin Clouston

THE *E. coli* epidemic in Scotland claimed its seventh victim yesterday as the first shots were fired in what is likely to be a multi-million pound compensation battle.

A 74-year-old Wishaw man who died in Montlands hospital, Airdrie, was one of 21 patients who had been giving cause for concern. The number of suspected cases of food poisoning has risen to more than 330, with confirmed cases rising to 176.

A Glasgow lawyer, Cameron Fyfe, revealed yesterday that a Lanarkshire woman has drawn up plans to sue John Barr and Son, the Wishaw butcher linked to the cooked meat believed to be the source of the infection.

Mr Fyfe said he did not anticipate having to go to court. "From the information I have got, it looks as if it is fairly cut and dried. The law in Scotland says that if you are a supplier of goods and those goods are deficient, then you

are liable." The unnamed single mother and her family all required hospital treatment after allegedly buying meat from an outlet that received meat from Barr's premises.

Mr Fyfe said if his client goes ahead with her claim she would be seeking a four-figure sum from the butcher's insurers in compensation for her distress.

Other victims could be eligible for claims above £100,000, if it is proved that the contaminated meat affected vital organs.

The butcher's position has not been helped by the disclosure that his shop allegedly supplied cold meat for the 18th birthday party of Lauren MacFarlane in Wishaw within two hours of a second official request that he withdraw such products from sale.

In a statement yesterday, Lauren and her parents, William and Fay MacFarlane, said they too were considering legal action after at least three guests fell ill, apparently as a consequence of eating meat provided by

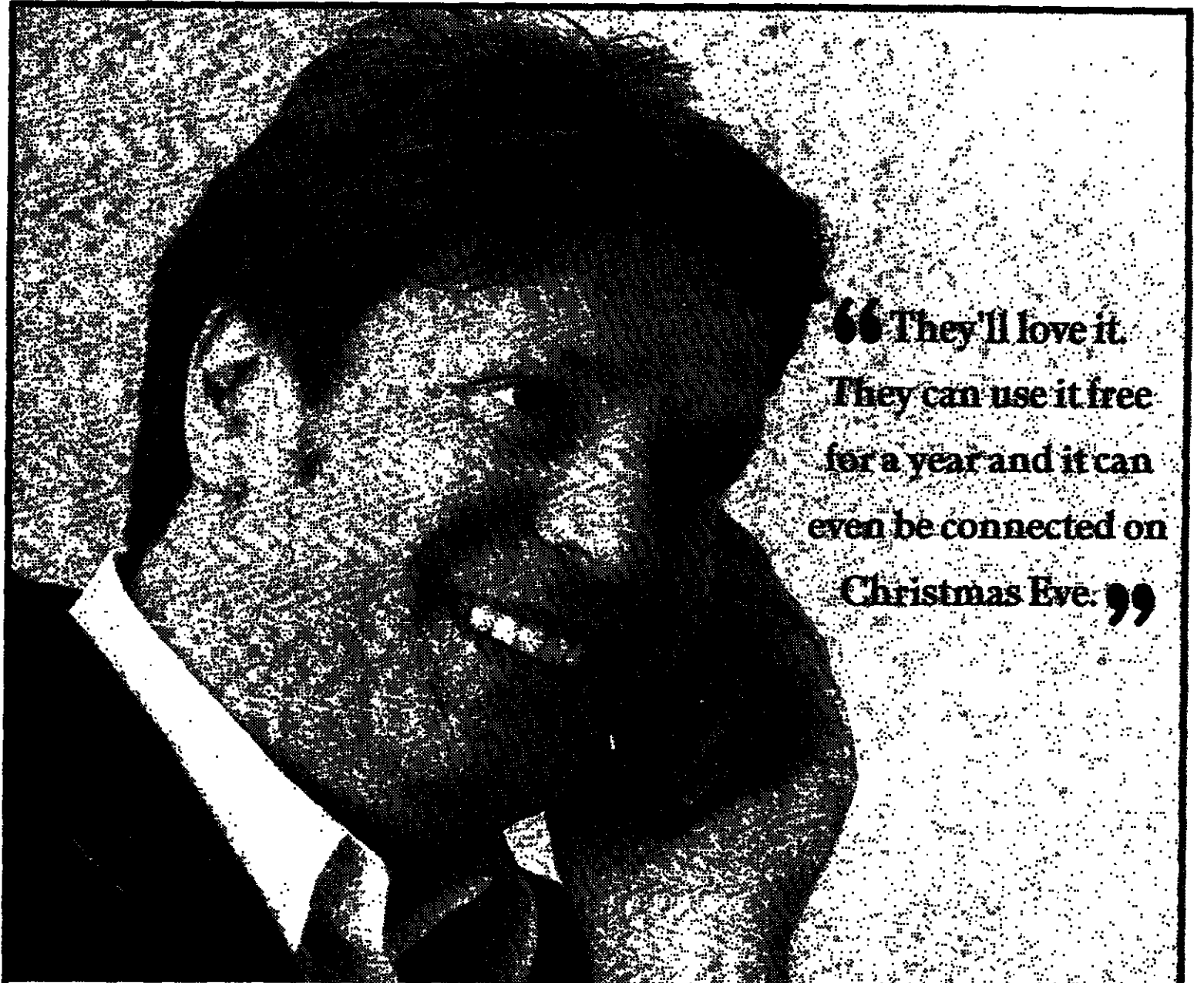
Scotland's current butcher of the year.

The family claimed that the uncle who collected the sandwich fillings on the morning of November 23 had telephoned the shop to confirm that the meat would be safe to eat.

The statement also alleged that Mrs MacFarlane was twice told to "go ahead and have a good time at the party" when she double-checked that evening with the press office at Law hospital, Carlisle.

Environmental health officers from North Lanarkshire council had visited Mr Barr on the evening of November 22 and again early on November 23 asking him to take the suspect product off his shelves.

The outbreak has put a strain on the resources of the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service as it tries to keep pace with the demand for fresh plasma, used to flush *E. coli*-generated toxins out of the bloodstream, according to a spokesman at the launch of the service's Christmas appeal.



They'll love it.
They can use it free for a year and it can even be connected on Christmas Eve.

Mafia woman loses case

THE daughter of a Mafia boss who worked as a barmaid in Lancashire yesterday failed in the High Court to block her extradition to Italy, where she is wanted on drug trafficking charges.

Maria Merico, aged 26, asked two judges to rule that moves to send her back to Italy were "unjust and oppressive" as there had been too long a delay in bringing proceedings.

Her counsel, Owen Davies, told the judges: "The question in this case is whether the sins of the father have been visited on the daughter."

He said that the father, Emilio Di Giovanni, was in jail in Portugal for drug offences

and therefore would not be available to give evidence in her defence against allegations that she was his "right-hand woman".

The memories of witnesses would have faded over the years since the date of the offences of which Merico was accused. Her trial would be prejudiced as a result.

Mr Davies said extradition would be oppressive because Merico, a single mother and a British citizen, was trying to provide a life in England for her five-year-old daughter, Lana.

Rejecting her plea for a writ of habeas corpus freeing her from custody, Lord Justice Phillips, sitting with Mr Jus-

tice Hooper, said that the delay was not so great as to be prejudicial to her trial in Italy.

Her daughter was being cared for by relatives, and Merico's house in Poulton-le-Fylde, near Blackpool, had been sold to meet a court order requiring her to account for the proceeds of drug trafficking to the tune of £80,000.

Therefore she had "no roots in this country which it would be oppressive to disturb by sending her back to Italy."

Merico faces up to 15 years in jail if she is found guilty in Italy on four charges of trafficking in cocaine, heroin and hashish. The smuggling operations were alleged to have taken place from Spain and Morocco to Milan and Florence.

Merico was arrested in April, to await extradition to Italy, immediately after serving a jail sentence in this country for smuggling £1.8 million of Mafia drugs money — said to have been the proceeds of her father's activities into Britain, hidden in a cot.

During the extradition proceedings, armed policemen guarded London's Bow Street magistrates' court, as it was alleged that Merico herself was linked to violent crimes which had been committed during the reign of a 200-strong Mafia gang in Milan and Florence.

The court heard Merico had lived in Italy from a very early age but had returned to England after her mother and father separated when she was nine years old, and had grown up in Poulton-le-Fylde.

At the age of 18 she pursued her contact with her father and moved to Italy.

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Hague judges accuse London conference on Bosnia of sidelining efforts to bring offenders to justice

War crimes 'downgraded'

John Palmer in Brussels and Ian Black, Diplomatic Editor

THE 11 judges of the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague yesterday accused the London conference on Bosnia of downgrading the attempt to bring indicted war criminals to trial.

There was tough talk from Western leaders at the two-day conference, warning war criminals that their time was up. Bosnian leaders were told to comply more fully with the Dayton peace accords, or find help diminishing and sympathy waning.

But, the judges said, "This essential aspect is not reflected in the programme. It is also regrettable that the international tribunal has not been invited to attend the conference as a participant, but only as an observer."

British officials insisted that the tribunal was in attendance — in the form of its chief prosecutor, Judge Louise Arbour — and on terms identical to previous Bosnia conferences.

Opening yesterday's London meeting, the Prime Minister, John Major, set the tone by promising to continue to help Bosnia's reconstruction.

But he added: "International help will be conditional on the willingness in Bosnia and Herzegovina to implement all aspects of the peace agreement."

France 'tipped off about bombs'

Paul Webster in Paris

THE probability that Algerian Islamic extremists planted the bomb which killed two people on a Parisian commuter train on Tuesday evening strengthened yesterday with the revelation that the French secret services were tipped off more than a month ago.

As security measures were stepped up in city centres, police studied reports from foreign intelligence services in Afghanistan and the Middle East on the expected arrival of an Algerian commando allegedly preparing a bombing campaign.

Although police deny that the security operation set up after the 1995 bombing wave had been wound down before the explosion at Port Royal station on the RER express urban rail network, internal inquiries have begun into an apparent lack of vigilance.

An official source confirmed that there had been warnings in recent weeks of preparations for an attack by the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which is involved in a civil war in Algeria. The chances of an attack increased with the weekend referendum in Algeria which approved the exclusion of religious bodies from politics.

Rabah Kebir, an exiled leader of Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), condemned the attack yesterday, saying that bombing innocent people served "neither the cause of Algeria nor the cause of Islam".



French troops prepare assault rifles for patrols near Eurostar trains at the Gare du Nord station in Paris yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: MICHEL SINGLER

terrorist suspect had been followed from Afghanistan to the Middle East since September after reports that he was planning to attack French interests. Early last month a four-man Algerian commando was reported to be heading for France. Their names were known and may have been obtained when Italian police rounded up a GIA logistical group early in November.

Investigators were also re-examining faxed communiqués sent two months ago by Antar Zouabri, who is believed to co-ordinate GIA activities from a secret base. The communiqués, reproduced in an internal bulletin, said that new attacks against France were justified and that

the GIA intended to pursue policies started by the movement's deposed leadership, which was linked to last year's violence in Paris and Lyon. The method, timing and location of Tuesday's bomb linked it to the GIA, which did not publicly claim any of last year's explosions but gave unpublished details in internal bulletins.

Similar gas canister bombs were used on several occasions in 1995, starting with an attack on the RER on July 25, which killed eight people, and ending on October 17, when 19 people were hurt in a similar operation.

Tuesday's bomb was made of the same explosive as that used last year and was filled with similar metal debris. The reactivation of the Vigilance security plan, mobilising thousands of troops and police to protect public areas, added to the general air of gloom and shock in the capital, where traffic was much lighter than usual on the Métro. The effect on business in the run-up to Christmas of a general fear that more



One of dozens of billboards in Moscow featuring Svetlana. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID BRAUCHLI

From a Russian with love

James Mack in Moscow

MOST Muscovites, cynical by nature, suspected the giant billboards were a trick to make them buy something they did not want. Others saw the adverts, featuring a beautiful woman and gazing adoringly at all and sundry with the message "I love you", as the latest wheeze by the mayor, Yuri Luzhkov, to bring the feelgood factor to the gloomy winter.

But even Mr Luzhkov does not love Muscovites that much. Rather, in an extraordinary act of romantic grandeur even by the standards of "New Russia", or possibly in an example of monstrous egotism, the advertising campaign turns out to be strictly a one-to-one affair between a shoe salesman and his wife.

Alexander Sharapov, the 30-year-old boss of the Moscow shoe firm Vena Moda Austria, has spent, advertising executives estimate, tens of thousands of pounds swamping the city with gift by gift images of his wife Svetlana's face. He says he did it partly to compensate her for disrupting her modelling career, but mainly out of love.

Greek farmers block European trade artery

Helena Smith in Athens

GREECE remained divided from its neighbours for the seventh day running yesterday as thousands of irate farmers continued a crippling blockade by tractors, farm vehicles and makeshift camps in protest at the government's economic austerity programme.

Queues of stranded international lorries are building up at frontier crossing points with neighbouring Bulgaria and Turkey, completely jamming one of Europe's main freight arteries. Among them, adding to the mayhem, British lorry drivers led a bad-tempered, multi-national counter-blockade yesterday, thrown up in a fit of pique by truckers protesting that the Greek police were doing nothing to help.

It is the second time in two weeks — after the blockade of Calais — that British drivers have been trapped by roadside action on the continent. But nothing at Calais could compare with these scenes — a ragtag army of more than 10,000 colourful tractors, some festooned with Christmas trees and decorations, has now fanned out across Greece, seizing toll booths and blocking national road and rail links at more than 40 strategic points.

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No half-way House

Labour mustn't do deals over Lords reform

IF LABOUR wins the general election, then politics could soon be dominated by the constitutional reform agenda. Apart from devolution, few of Labour's proposals have yet become matters of high controversy. Yet the measures are wide-ranging, radical and likely to arouse strong opposition, especially from those most threatened by them. Yesterday, on the House of Lords, part of the resistance began to take shape.

Labour has pledged to reform the Lords in two stages. In part one, to be implemented early in a Labour government, hereditary peers would lose their voting rights. In an interview in today's New Statesman, shadow Lord Chancellor Lord Irvine reveals that Labour has already drafted a short bill to bring this about. Part two, though, is more obscure and much more distant, with Labour committed in general terms to a reconstructed second chamber, possibly involving an elected element. In reality, only part one is on the agenda. Part two remains unthought-out and Lord Irvine is very guarded about what it might contain.

Restricting the Lords reform agenda to the abolition of voting rights for the hereditaries has always carried obvious dangers. Chief among these is that part two of the reform could be almost permanently delayed, and that as a result the Lords may become an ermined quango controlled largely by the prime minister. Labour has hinted that it will try to mitigate this problem by establishing an appointments vetting committee procedure. But as the current leader of the Lords, Viscount Cranborne, said in his Politeia lecture yesterday (part of which we reprint on the opposite page), the probability is that, if Labour wins, we will be stuck with this halfway house for some time.

Yet the fact that reform in stages will create genuine problems is not a sufficient reason to oppose it outright. At

one time, Conservative peers seemed ready to take just such a stand. But the absurdity and electoral unpopularity of such a reactionary response has now got through to them, and yesterday's contribution from Viscount Cranborne was more subtle. It was, nevertheless, based on a pretty flimsy argument that, as amateur politicians, the hereditaries are better able than professional MPs to represent the common man in Parliament. Tell that to the common man and the common woman.

The crucial part of Viscount Cranborne's lecture reiterated the so-called Salisbury/Addison doctrine under which the Lords do not oppose Government manifesto commitments. On the face of it, that pledge would seem to imply that the Tories of 1997 will not "die in the ditch" (as their 1910 predecessors intended to do against Asquith's reforms) to oppose Labour's plans. If that is what Viscount Cranborne means, then it is a welcome provisional acceptance of the democratic will.

But Viscount Cranborne's pledge doesn't quite say that. It appears to be conditional upon Labour agreeing that the whole committee stage of its constitutional reform bills will be taken by the full House. Such a condition, though superficially attractive, is unreasonable. It cannot be right for legislative convention to make constitutional bills practically unpassable in a modern parliament. It needs to be reformed so that standing committees have a scrutiny role as they do in all other bills. And in any case the unelected Lords should not apply conditions to their acceptance of the will of the electorate. Lords reform may not be the talk of the taverns yet, but it is a popular and progressive reform. For his own good and for ours, Viscount Cranborne should resist the temptation to rattle hereditary sabres.

War pensioners in the firing line

There's only one response to ministerial meanness: attack

ONCE BITTEN, twice shy? Not if you are a government desperate to make tax cuts. Our front page exclusive on a new round of cuts to war pensions shows just how desperate ministers have become. And just how cynical too. Last week's budget statement included an innocuous paragraph on war pensions suggesting a new package was in the pipeline to "simplify policy and procedures". There was a promise to widen entitlement to war widows' pensions and a suggestion that access to supplementary allowances would be eased. Now our social services correspondent has been leaked the truth: a new round of cuts — only the second since war pensions were introduced in 1947 — which will leave the pensioners £50 million poorer and affect between 14 and 19 different benefits. No wonder urgent confidential letters have been passing between the Social Security Secretary and the Chief Secretary on how to "massage" the true news. They disclose ministers plotting to split the ex-service lobby by providing "sweeteners" to four different groups but the war pensioners' lobby — and their vocal allies on the backbenches — will surely not be that gullible.

The story begins in 1993 when in the face of the unanimous hostility of ex-service organisations, ministers ended the entitlement to war pensions of all people who had lost only 20 per cent (or less) of their hearing. Now much worse follows. The cuts due next year will exclude new war pensions awards to

people with disabilities assessed at 40 per cent or below; new claims from people over 65 will be excluded even if their disability exceeds 40 per cent; new stricter rules will govern the review of entitlements; and perhaps most mean of all, the current process of issuing reminders to people to return claims forms or seek increases to their current payments will be ended. There will be 500 winners — widows — but up to 50,000 losers (over five years) with the additional curb on higher deafness pensions forecast to stop at least 10,000 veterans a year from getting a pension.

The Social Security Secretary has warned his colleagues to expect "a storm". It is up to the widows and ex-service organisations to ensure he is not disappointed. There has always been a hierarchy of welfare claimants in the UK going back to the 1834 Poor Law Act, which gave widows a special place. This continued through Beveridge, who placed widows in the deserving category (national insurance benefits) and all other single mothers, separated, deserted, divorced or unmarried, with the underserving poor (welfare). Liberal reformers have always disliked this hierarchy but what Mr Lilley understands is that it has had strong resonance on Tory benches. There are few places where the regimental tie remains so strong. Now these faithful supporters are being directly challenged. Surely there is only one response to the sound of gunfire — resistance and retaliation.

Guys and Dolls: the unsung secret

Great musical writers come not in battalions but singly

THE NATIONAL THEATRE is about to revive one of its greatest triumphs: the Frank Loesser musical Guys and Dolls. Would it be crazy and shameful to revive Guys and Dolls? The director Richard Eyre is said to have asked a staff meeting. Certainly not, said the meeting. And quite right too. Why such negative thinking? The thought of staging a guaranteed money-spinner no doubt came into it. But only one justification is needed for reviving Guys and Dolls. It is one of the greatest musicals ever written: and it has rarely if ever been better done than it was by the National, with Eyre directing, in 1982. The perfection of this enterprise raises one of the oldest questions about musicals: are works where music and lyrics come from the same hand inherently better than those created by collaborators? Guys and Dolls was not entirely Loesser's own work. The characters were lifted from Damon Runyon. But

Loesser alone was responsible for that perfect attuning of music and words which makes Luck Be a Lady, Take Back Your Mink, and Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat such guarantees of roof-raising euphoria. This is not to decry the great collaborators, from Gilbert and Sullivan through George and Ira Gershwin, Rodgers and Hart, and later (though not quite the same) Rodgers and Hammerstein, through to such modern titans as — Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber? Possibly not. But even the best collaborations — G and S included — were constantly strained and finally sundered. Some might argue that Johnny Mercer wrote even better with partners like Harold Arlen or Harry Warren than on his own. But the best of Loesser, and the best ofondheim today, are conclusive proof that, in this particular context, one head is better than two. Those who doubt it should book for the National now.



Letters to the Editor

You're still wrong, Jack Straw

I HAVE followed with interest the difference of view between Hugo Young and Jack Straw concerning Clause 89 of the Police Bill (Hugo Young, November 28 and December 3; and Letters, November 30).

As a recently retired chief police officer, let me disclose the way in which a not entirely dissimilar piece of legislation works in practice. The Interception of Communications Act, 1985, concerns itself with "telephone tapping".

Its procedures for protecting the public from unauthorised intrusion include the appointment of a senior judge to oversee the system and report his findings to Parliament. These safeguards have never been seriously questioned and have stood the test of time.

One of my past responsibilities as an assistant commissioner at New Scotland Yard was to receive and vet all applications for intercept warrants from chief constables up and down the country. I was always aware that, before very long, the judge would be conducting a meticulous investigation which would include an interrogation of me so as to reassure himself that our actions were justifiable.

It is my view that the oversight of a senior and experienced judge, appointed for the purpose, is by far and away the most effective way to ensure the integrity of the process. With such a system in place, the initiation process is not the key to addressing the problems highlighted by Hugo Young. He is unnecessarily fearful.

Sir John Smith,
23 Wimbourne,
Hoyham,
West Sussex RH12 8JW.

hoping that, in the event of Labour losing the election, Michael Howard will offer him a job?

Judith Cook,
3 Antoine Terrace,
Newlyn,
Penzance,
Cornwall TR18 8BW.

HUGO Young does Mr Straw a disservice by assuming he knows what he is talking about.

Anyone who can make Michael Howard look wet is some class act.

Jack Straw's monumental inconsistency is no accident; he wrote an entire pamphlet of 37 pages in 1993 to justify his "refreshment" of Clause IV.

He started it with "this pamphlet does not suggest that Pt 4 Cl IV should be 'dumped', or that the Party should abandon any commit-

ment to public ownership" and ended up with recommending "economic democracy, public regulation and more varied forms of ownership" as well as the dumping of the Clause and its substitution with his own hotchpotch.

Thirty-seven pages of nit-picking and tortuous argument under the guise of ideology which created discord where there was none.

He was wrong, wrong, wrong then too...

Les Turner,
Manor House,
146 Tombridge Road,
Maldstone ME16 8SP.

FAR from opposing, as any true libertarian would, the Government's near-fascist threat to civil liberties, under the guise of the new Police Bill, Jack Straw tries to justify his and New Labour's acceptance of it.

Once again he appears determined to prove the old adage "You can't drop bricks without straw".

New Labour? New cant!
John Sheeran,
3 Southfield Rise,
Cheltenham GL53 9LH.

THE decision to allow Eurostar trains through the Channel Tunnel two weeks after the fire is regrettable (Row as tunnel trains resume service, December 4), not least because the reasons have not been made public. The hallmark of the decision-making has been secrecy, as it has since the first days of the Channel Tunnel project.

There is reason to be wary. Running trains both ways through a single tunnel creates the possibility of a collision. A cardinal feature of the Channel Tunnel system was that there should be a running tunnel for each direction. Repair work may well hamper any evacuation. Apparently, the service tunnel was damaged, yet evacuation into it is a feature of fire protection.

Media coverage of the fire has failed to demonstrate just how lucky were the 34 people on the train. Had the fire spread to the first six lorries on the train, rather than the last six, it is extremely likely that deaths would have resulted, possibly all 34.

The wheels were added to the rail; that is, some melting of steel took place, and the melting point of steel is 1,300°C. Hot gases in the tunnel would be expected to be higher — say 1,500°C. If all six lorries were burnt out, the peak heat release rate may have been 600 MegaWatts. This was mainly a very fierce fire.

Eurotunnel's complacency was also evident at a tunnel-safety conference in 1995 when Sir Alastair Morton confidently asserted that the Channel Tunnel was 20 times safer than travelling on a 50km stretch of open rail. I openly questioned this at the time. I was later privately supported by a Eurotunnel employee who had been too afraid of victimisation to say similar things in public.

The Safety Authority needs to insist on significant changes. At the least, the HGV carriers should be enclosed. This fire may also foreshadow a serious fire on a car-shuttle train. One safety measure would be to separate passengers from their cars; it is not too late to do this, although it may eat into Eurotunnel's profits. It took the loss of 167 lives in Piper Alpha to bring about a fundamental re-think there. Do we need a multiple fatality fire in the Channel Tunnel before anything significant changes?

(Dr) Alan N Beard,
Department of Civil and
Infrastructure Engineering,
Heriot-Watt University,
Edinburgh EH14 4AS.

Reading into it
CHRIS Willis of Birkbeck College (Letters, December 4) is right to cast aspersions on Eric Morley's assertion that "intelligence is the main factor" in choosing Miss World. Birkbeck's record 320-point trouncing by Manchester University on Tuesday's University Challenge leaves me in no doubt that intelligence was not the main factor in the selection of their quartet. Perhaps Birkbeck's team look great in beachwear.

William Barrett,
Burns Road,
London NW10 4DY.

WE are told that reading broadens the mind. Dr Ian Paisley tells us (November 29) that he has 15,000 books in his library. Something's not quite right here somewhere.

E Dyer,
8 Victoria Road, Rhyl.

RED grouse numbers fall, while raptor numbers rise. But to imply that we are conducting "a determined campaign" to link the two is fanciful (Society, November 27). We have not prejudged the issue, but act only on scientific research.

Charles Nodder,
Game Conservancy Trust,
Fordingbridge, Hants SP6 1EP.

A Country Diary
GLOUCESTERSHIRE: Our largest field shelter is, in architect speak, a multi-functional building. In spring, divided with hurdles and pallets, it provides room as a maternity ward for difficult lambings and overnight accommodation for all ewes with new lambs until they are at least a week old. In winter it is a hay store and also provides space for the ferociously-powered meadow grass fall-cutter which either tips the seedling grass in July or gives an early cut of June hay. Despite the fact that our flock is currently entirely Herdwicks, the native sheep of the Lake District fells, where surely they have a genetic memory of getting wet, we notice that these ewes trot rapidly to the shelter when rain arrives. Snow proves that these are fair weather girls for they all pack in and shelter for the duration. Summer neglect saw us start the winter with a leaking roof. The first autumn rains cascading through the branches of the 90ft sycamore which overhangs the shelter proved

that the roof was leaking in four separate places. And by that stage it was too late to start with rolls of asphalt roofing felt and mouthfuls of flat-headed nails. Emergency measures were needed so we put a large tarpaulin over the roof to delay the solution of the leak problem until a warm day next spring. That would keep the hay at least dry, which is very important since sheep are fussy about the quality of their hay and will turn up their noses at anything which does not smell of the goodness of golden summer. So the tarpaulin is lashed down and we can relax. The only worry is that westerly gales hit this point on an upslope with rare velocity. We previously had a polytunnel (heavy gauge polythene sheeting over half hoops) here. We only kept it on the ground in one gale by the combined weight of the two of us hanging from the overhead hoops to complete the ground ties. And in one gust we both felt our feet leave the ground.

COLIN LUCKHURST

The Labour ward

DON'T think your leader (writer (December 4) can have been listening to the same speech as the one I delivered on Tuesday on the future of the NHS.

You say we have failed to match the Tories' supposed promise of real increases in funding year on year. There's a simple reason for this: the Tories themselves have already failed to match it. The forward figures in the Budget Red Book showed that a standstill, not an increase, is planned by the Chancellor for the health service for subsequent years. There is an increase for the coming year, yes, and I have said Labour will match it. But for the years beyond that, the Tories have already reneged on their own claim of annual real increases.

As to my proposals to end the internal market and to replace GP funding with GP commissioning, you wrongly accuse me of failing to curb management numbers and bureaucracy.

The proposals I have made will reduce to one-tenth the number of contracts and eliminate holding their own will end the system of individual patient invoicing which has created a flood of unnecessary paperwork they will reduce management costs and numbers at both single-practice level and in health authorities; and they will remove the remaining regional tier of bureaucracy. That is a substantial assault on bureaucracy in anyone's book.

We are crystal clear about the way to proceed. There will be no single-practice fund-holders holding their own commissioning budget as of right. The reason that system must go is that it has created unfairness between patients — better access to treatment for some, worse for others, with no account taken of clinical need. We also want to see other members of the primary-healthcare team — such as nurses and health visitors — playing a full role in that process.

THE US pattern of litigation is part of the price of an inadequate welfare state; it marks the back-door recognition that society does owe a living to those who, through no fault of their own, cannot access to "rights". As usual, there is no such thing as a free tax cut.

Lord Russell,
House of Lords,
London SW1A 0AA.



Hats off to Richard Branson

READ with interest that Richard Branson's Virgin Group has won the franchise to operate BR's CrossCountry trains (Branson steams in to CrossCountry running, November 30).

For many years the train conductor has been expected to dress neatly and wear official uniform, including tie and hat, even in the hottest weather.

One may now expect them

to appear tie-less and hat-less, with a necker and jeans. After all, their new chief, Richard Branson, seems to think it appropriate dress.

And, of course, the conductor can be unshaven with untidy hair — just like their new leader.

E J Barlow,
3 Rabon Avenue,
Littleover,
Derby DE23 7DD.

Litigious pupils cross-examined

DESCRIBING the use of litigation against public servants as "creeping Americanisation" cannot be passed off as critical analysis (Don't sue the teacher, December 2). The central theme of Tory reform of the public services has been the fraudulent use of "choice" and "accountability" to destroy the social bonds essential for individuals to have any real sense of ownership of these services. The only way individuals can exert influence is through the marketplace; citizens have become consumers, forced to use what economic power they possess to access "rights". This process has been most destructive in education.

Chris Wilkins,
12 West Street,
Leicester LE1 6XL.

WORK in the health service is an almost daily shock by people's lack of responsibility for anything that happens to them. Why do people seemingly believe that it is always someone else's job to pick up or put together their

pieces? Are we such passive participants in our own lives? Sally Lewis,
Bristol BS2.

TO sue is a self-centred, arrogant act. If a student is old enough (and sharp-witted enough) to sue, he shows himself to be sufficiently intelligent to learn. In fact, he proves the defence.

Sue Mack,
34 Winchester Road,
Walton on Thames,
Surrey KT12 2RH.

WHY not sue the parents in the area, and their lack of income presumably prevented the children from achieving their full potential. Come to that — these children should also sue their local representatives of the Deity for his negligence in letting them be born.

David Wilding,
13 Makins Road,
Henley on Thames RG9 1PU.

HAS anybody considered legal action against the Secretary of State for Education for understating schools?

A Lublin,
20 Brunswick Street,
Swindon SN1 3NB.

SOME of my ex-pupils have gone on to be very successful. I am thinking of suing them for a share of their earnings and seek legal assistance.

Dennis Churnman,
62 Cobbold Road,
London W12 9LW.

Diary
Matthew Norman

THE £6 million spent on refurbishing the House of Commons tea room and its kitchen over the summer was not, it seems, enough. So dissatisfied are MPs that managers have now put out a little complaints book, and this is filling up. "Daylight robbery having to pay £1.30 for a slice of ham," thunders Jersey education minister Cheryl Gillan. Robert Key, Tory MP for Salisbury, has no problem with the food, as you'd guess from his garb, but is displeased about the crockery: "No mugs in the morning" is his complaint. Pride of place goes, however, to that spunky little fellow Alan Duncan, one of Brian Mawhinney's office boys at Central Office, and the kind of far-right character who follows the Redwood line that there are billions to be saved from wasted government spending. Mr Duncan's complaint is brief and to the point: "No toothpicks," he writes. Toothpicks—and morning mugs—have now been provided.

THE lovable chump Gyles Brandreth is in the wars again. The MP's puzzle page is absent again from OK! magazine, while his navigational problems continue in Chester. A few weeks after getting lost on the way to the football ground, Gyles has become confused about his constituency boundaries, sending hundreds of letters to electors in Sengid, which lies in the Ellesmere Port and Neston seat of Labour's Andrew Miller. "In the four years I have had the privilege of being your MP," boasted Gyles in his missive, "I have made it a priority to keep in touch." Min.

THE new edition of Progress—Dolly Draper's DIY manual for aspirant New Labour weenies—contains a readership survey, and one question asks "which public figure reflects your political opinions most closely". Among the 11 listed are Tony Blair, Ken Livingstone, Gordon Brown and Robin Cook... but who can this be, between Neil Kinnock and John Prescott? Good Lord, it's Peter Maddison. Oofy Wegg, Professor confirms this refers to Mandy Maddison, but denies an intended slight. "I'm sure it was nothing to do with Dolly Draper," Oofy rapidly rebuts. "I'm sure it was just a printing mistake." Was it indeed?

TWO days after we refused his demand for an apology, for the story of how Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber had a theatre's toilet cleared so he could pee alone, his PR man Tim Bell responds. "If you got off the telephone from time to time," he writes stropfully, "people would be able to respond to your enquiries." How weird: the phone's "call waiting" beeping device must be faulty. "Repeating your silly insulting story does not make it any more true." Or, of course, any less. No, we stick by the story, and pose this baffler: how is it that our sources failed to notice Sir Tim, who claims to have spent every moment of the evening at the composer's side? This remains a matter of the gravest national importance: the search for the truth goes on.

SETTING a fine example to soldiers everywhere, Defence Secretary Portillo "Polly" to his German counterpart Volker Rube—has been spotted in flight from News Bunny. During the recent row over the sale of his constituency association to McDonald's, the Enfield Independent reports that Polly drove home one evening to see the Live TV rabbit on his doorstep. Instantly, he turned the car around and fled, later confessing that was determined not to be in the same camera shot as a six-foot rabbit. What a wuss.

Advert for a German-made insecticide has been withdrawn in Guatemala, reports the Fortean Times, after shareholders' fears that the slogan "Sustainable"—a German speciality—is a reference to the Euro96 penalty shoot-out—was open to misinterpretation.



Advertisement for Eurostar train service

Inside John Major's tortured soul

Commentary Hugo Young

WHEN they open up the late John Major, as he has whimsically observed, they will find Maastricht engraved on his heart. A tour of his living mind, five years after the treaty that set Europe on the way to economic and monetary union, would yield, I guess, something less than a definitive etching. The picture is blurred. It is stained with defiance and regret, with bitterness and yet an implacable need for vindication. It is yellowed with scepticism, but also refulgent with belief.

He still believes the project ought to fail. He thinks the original Six, with their new outlanders in Spain, Sweden and Austria, will reach convergence only by fiddling the figures. Actually, the evidence for this is doubtful. At present the largest obstruction to progress is not Britain's long-discounted hostility but Germany's determination to drive the hardest bargain. It's not clear that Germany will soften, and it's certain she won't do so before the Dublin summit. More likely, it will be well into next year before the position is clear. But it suits the Tory Euro-sceptics, who are now beyond recall to any genuine scepticism, to caricature the position as yet another stitch-up, and the Prime Minister does not dispute this.

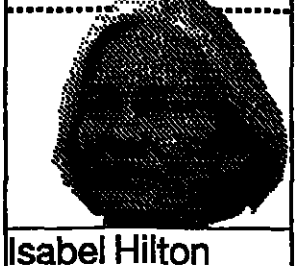
He has also come to believe that the inherent case against EMU surpasses the case in its favour. The famous pads, on which he draws a line down the middle and checks out the balance of argument, now finds a longer list on the anti side than the pro. He doesn't fancy standing up in the House of Commons to defend a macro-economic policy over which he has lost control. The thing he thought would never happen is now laid out before him with all its dismal implications for the man in his position, the local accounting officer for tax and spending. And he's aware of one more thing: that if the Conservatives win the election, there will be virtually no chance of sterling entering EMU. I say "virtually" not "absolutely" because finance and politics are fickle forces, and one must leave open the possibility that the costs of exclusion for Britain will become so obvious that the screaming of British business and finance overwhelms even the scepticism of Michael Portillo. But I wouldn't bet a euro on it at odds of less than 50-1.

So Mr Major is a sceptic. He has grown more sceptical by the year, as he has grown more tactical, to so little avail, by the month, the week and latterly the day. He is also, however, a negotiator on both the international (European) and the domestic (Conservative) stage. He hesitates to follow the logic of the phobos-sceptics for reasons even more substantial than the need to satisfy Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine. He does have to keep them sweet. But just as the

great error of pro-EU Tories was to see him once as a principled European, so the great error of the anti-EU Tories is to think that the only reason he takes his present line is because he has given in to the big beasts. Mr Clarke was upgraded this week for de-stabilising the Cabinet. An extraordinary charge to lay against someone who has simply been affirming the collective policy agreed last April, but indicative of the caverns of malignity from which the sceptic tactics, in all their ruthlessness, now emerge. What the sceptics want is to break the collective line, aided by a press that finds ever more imaginative ways of transmuting into "fact" the propaganda, misinformation, invention and rumour daily conducted by a group of politicians. I cannot recall a time, in fact, when there has been so little distinction between politician and press, or

join in the first round, but until that is formally decided, Britain remains a player in the game. In the run-up to the Intergovernmental Conference, it's a different story: there Brussels is awaiting the British election before trying to make progress. But on the currency question, paradoxical though this sounds, announcing our departure would destroy the contribution which, in our own interest, we make.

Nostalgia for glory freezes us in the past



Isabel Hilton

FORGETTING your history is said to be the besetting sin, the thing that condemns you to repeat it, but I wonder. Senator Mitchell observed at a lunch in London recently that he sometimes felt that there was exactly too much history in Ireland, too much memory to allow anyone to live in the present. As I waded through a renewed spate of second world war stories, I begin to feel the same about Britain. I am surprised by the sense of weariness that creeps over me as I read again about Nazi submarines and Argentina, about the Duke of Windsor's Nazi sympathies or about the allegedly shocking revelation that men with what the Nazis called "Jewish blood" fought in the German armed forces during the war. History is a fine thing, but the fascination with the stories only about a nation with a sense of history, or is it something less commendable, something a little sadder—a symptom of a nation still mired in nostalgia for its moment of glory?

commercial case goes, there has to have been a secret. It is the uncovering of the secret—at least as far as the publisher's hype goes—that sells history, not the brilliance of the exposition or the analysis. The problem is that the selling of history primarily for its secret-busting qualities produces distortions and hype. The "Hitler's Jewish Soldiers" story in this week's Daily Telegraph was only the latest in an unending line: the fact that men with one, two or three Jewish grandparents had served in the German armed forces was presented, falsely, as a revelation and, worse, gave the headline-writers an opportunity which they rushed at—for anti-Semitic innuendo. No matter how vigorously historians like Anthony Glees of Brunel University protest that such men thought of themselves as German, not Jewish, and point out that all this has long been known—it's the original story that will linger in the collective memory.

A US company is being allowed to ship here soya beans genetically engineered to resist a herbicide. They will be used, unlabelled, in processed food. Nico Ladenis won't have them in his kitchen

Soya beans go bananas



DON'T like my tomatoes larger. I don't want them redder. Longer-lasting bananas make me sick of bananas, and that genetically engineered fruits and vegetables look better and taste better. If they don't look or taste as nature intended, I don't want them. A sour note here and there is welcome. Even a sun-dried tomato is better than a genetically engineered one.

redden tomato than some of the juicy red tomatoes I know is unnecessary. A food scientist can never convince me that genetically engineered fruits and vegetables look better and taste better. If they don't look or taste as nature intended, I don't want them. A sour note here and there is welcome. Even a sun-dried tomato is better than a genetically engineered one.

Save the gifted amateurs in the Lords

Robert Cranborne claims that hereditary peers are increasingly coming to represent the common man in Parliament

THE Labour Party holds that the hereditary peerage is an anachronism and should be removed from Parliament. It is, it says, unacceptable that in 1996 a man should have the right to sit in Parliament simply because he is his father's eldest son. Furthermore, there is an inbuilt Tory majority in the House of Lords which occasionally frustrates the will of a Tory majority in the House of Commons, but which for more frequently frustrates the will of a Labour government and they have statistics to prove it.

from which politicians have not escaped. The amateur is never wholly disinterested. No man can be. However, he is less interested in climbing the greasy pole than the professional. It is helpful to the body politic for Parliament to contain a body of amateur politicians. The only such body we now have is the hereditary peerage, and it is a body chosen by lot. The inventors of democracy the Athenians would say that was the fairest system of all.

common man in Parliament. They owe no favours to patronage. They are not paid. They do it, dare I say it, from a sense of duty and of privilege. They are not a group to be despised in an otherwise specialist House of Lords and in a bicameral legislature dominated by an elected chamber composed of professional politicians.

victory of 1945. He advised the House of Lords that "whatever our personal views, we should frankly recognise that [the proposals contained in the Queen's Speech] were put to the country at the recent General Election and that the people of this country, with the full knowledge of these proposals, returned the Labour Party to power. The Government may, therefore, I think, fairly claim that they have a mandate to introduce these proposals." Believe it or not, it is constitutionally wrong when the country has so recently expressed its view, for this House to oppose proposals which have been definitely put before the electorate.

Advertisement for Woodstock Floors Limited, featuring the slogan "Hardwood Floors with a Difference". The ad includes a list of services, contact information for London and Midlands, and a 12-month interest-free credit offer.

Edison Denisov

A place in the sun for Soviet music

OF THE three composers who dominated Soviet music after the death of Shostakovich, Edison Denisov, who died aged 67, as the eldest, became the leader and protector of young composers threatened by the powerful Soviet musical establishment. Together with Sofia Gubaidulina and Alfred Schnittke, Denisov was the third member of the "Holy Trinity" as younger Russian musicians used to call them, half-joking, half in awe.

The courage and single-mindedness Denisov displayed in his early years stood him in good stead for the rest of his life. He himself said that it was "my Siberian stubbornness" that enabled him, in the stifling world of post-war Soviet music, to evolve a musical language unlike that of any Russian composer before him, and to create with it an exciting profusion of works in almost every medium from electronic and the most intimate chamber music through to symphonies, concertos, films, operas and ballets.

He was studying mathematics at Tomsk when he sent compositions to Shostakovich

with the international musical community. But the contact Denisov sought was by no means one-way. A passionate patriot and a believer in the Russian tradition, he wanted Russian music to flourish under the same sun as other kinds of music. He wanted Russians to be the "colleagues" and not just the patronised poor relations of Western composers. Edison Denisov was born in

the Siberian city of Tomsk, the son of an engineer and a doctor. His first name reflects his parents' typically early Soviet enthusiasm for "scientific" rather than Christian names. His childhood musical experiences were haphazard and it was not until he was studying mathematics at Tomsk University that he plucked up the courage to send his first compositions to Shostakovich.

In 1951, with Shostakovich's warm encouragement and at the second attempt, Denisov entered the Moscow Conservatoire. After graduation, he stayed on, teaching counterpoint and analysis and, later, orchestration. As his fame, especially in the West, grew through the 1970s and 1980s, he applied to teach composition. He was refused and it was not until 1980, when the old musical order had virtually collapsed, that Denisov was finally granted this "right".

Denisov's works of the early 1960s reflected his discovery of the "forbidden" music of the first half of the 20th century — Debussy, Ravel, Stravinsky, Bartok, Schoenberg, Berg, Webern and Ives — jostled in his imagination with the newer works of post-war composers like Stockhausen, Boulez, Xenakis, Ligeti and Cage. All of them were composers whose work was then an

anathema to the still largely Stalinist union of composers. One of his first successes, the chamber cantata *The Sun of the Insects* (1964), reflects an enthusiasm for Boulez's *Le Marteau sans maître* (Denisov's piece is dedicated to the Frenchman). Thereafter, French themes were important in Denisov's output. A series of pieces based on the writings of Boris Vian culminated in an opera, *L'Examen des Jours* (1981). There was a ballet after de Musset and another opera on a French play by Picasso. More recently Denisov entered the Franco-Russian tradition, orchestrating from piano score an entire early (and previously forgotten) opera by Debussy, *Rodrigue et Clytemnestre*.

With the short orchestral piece *Peinture* (1970), which strikes a delicate and evocative balance between the sonoric and coloristic effects of the then avant-garde, and an unexpectedly romantic and Russian expressiveness drawn from Glinka, Denisov felt he had found his true language. Denisov poured out music in a style which sometimes seemed to change little, but which adapted itself fluently to almost every medium. Particularly strong are many concertos he wrote for distinguished soloists like Heinz Holliger, Gidon Kremer and Yuri Bashmet. These pieces allowed him not only



Edison Denisov... part of the Soviet Union's 'holy trinity' who helped protect younger composers

CLIVE BARDA

to write virtuosic solo parts, but to stretch and elaborate his rich orchestral technique as well.

He wrote many songs and cycles of songs, including settings of Pushkin and Blok. The work of which he was proudest, and perhaps the strongest and most individual piece he ever wrote, was his 1980 *Requiem*, which mixes liturgical texts with poems by Francisco Tanser. Here are all Denisov's musical traits, the luminous shifting layers

of orchestral sound, the hints of half-remembered French music and Russian liturgical homophony, the expressive melody lines, the dramatic writing for voices and overall, a distinctive bitter-sweet confessional quality: what his friend and colleague Gubaidulina called "Edik's lyrical intimacy".

For the last four years, Denisov suffered the effects of a nearly fatal car crash and later inoperable cancer. He continued, even during long

periods of chemotherapy in a Paris hospital, to work producing two more concertos, a completion and orchestration of Schubert's oratorio *Lazarus*, and a second symphony. When he could no longer return to Moscow and to his friends and his students at the Conservatoire. A new chamber piece *Women and Birds* was performed in Moscow on the day he died, by the ACM ensemble which he founded. A few days before, on a trip to Germany he

heard his *Requiem* performed. He returned to Paris to face death with the "Siberian stubbornness" with which he had approached every other obstacle in his life. He leaves a son and a daughter from his first marriage and two daughters from his second.

Gerard McBurney

Edison Vassilievich Denisov, composer, born April 6, 1929; died November 24, 1996

Dan Flavin

Turning a bright light on minimal art

DAN FLAVIN, who has died of complications from diabetes aged 63, was one of the leading exemplars of minimal art in the 1960s. Although rarely shown in this country, Flavin, along with his contemporaries Don Judd and Carl Andre, had an important influence on the direction of contemporary art internationally. While his works, which utilised the standard fluorescent lighting tube as their sole element, might be seen as an extension of Marcel Duchamp's ceramic urinals, snow-shovels and bottle-racks, Flavin was closer in spirit to the industrially fabricated primary, geometric forms of Judd and Robert Morris, to John Chamberlain's colourful sculptures using mangled and crushed car bodies, and to the lyrical colour-field painting of Jules Olitski, Morris Louis and Gene Davis.

Flavin's permanent light installations, climbing through the stairwell of New York's Dia Foundation is a playful and somewhat unerving experience, managing at once to be cheerful in its colour, and sickly and vertigo-inducing in its effect on visitors. Yet Flavin's work was never vulgar, and, in his frank utilisation of the humble, commercially available strip light, never attempted fake magic or trickery. His work had, of course, its own material difficulties: museum curators had to buy replacement stocks of out-of-production colour tubes.

A New Yorker, Flavin studied at the New School of Social Research at Columbia University, but began his artistic career as a belated Abstract Expressionist. He first showed his light works in 1964, at a time when the New York art world was saturated with pop art and experiencing the vacuums of post-painterly abstraction. Flavin took colour and disembodied it, an ambition shared but never achieved by Yves Klein and Jules Olitski.

His influence on subsequent generations of artists in the US and Europe is still being felt — in the light and space installations of James Turrell and in Bruce Nauman's aggressive neon signs. Philip Vaughan and Roger Denton's 1970 strip-light double-helix tower on the roof of the Hayward Gallery is a baroque, derivative descendant of Flavin's work, while Flavin

himself made a wall-bound tower of lights in homage to the Russian Constructivist Vladimir Tatlin, and dedicated an entire series of works to British potter Lucie Rie. Flavin, the altar-boy son of an Irish Catholic trustee and a mother whom he once described as a "stupid, fleshy tyrant of a woman", was always attracted to the solemnity of the mass and the pomp and candlelight of the church service, but created works for a secular world. Flavin celebrated his second marriage in 1992, to Tracy Harris, under one of his own works, installed in the cupola of New York's Guggenheim Museum.

Despite recent encouragement, a permanent installation for a church in Italy was unrealised. The new National Gallery of Berlin, which opened less than a month ago in the renovated Hamburger Bahnhof, is illuminated at night by Flavin's work, an arrangement of red and blue neon tubes mounted on the building's exterior.

Adrian Searle

Dan Flavin, minimalist sculptor, born April 1, 1933; died November 30, 1996



Dan Flavin... straddling the worlds of minimalist rigour and painterly lyricism with influential works in fluorescent strip

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY LISON GALLERY

Edward Kassner

Publisher with an ear for a hit round the clock

TEN YEARS before he left the army and he spent the 1950s building it into a potent force with songs recorded by Frank Sinatra, Nat "King" Cole, the Ink Spots, Perry Como, Dinah Shore and local talent of the calibre of Vera Lynn, Donald Peers, Anne Shelton, Mantovani and Russ Conway.

Kassner realised early on that Anglo-American repertoire was destined to be the dominant factor in popular music, and in 1961 he opened an office in New York's renowned Brill Building, the home and focal point of American music publishing for many years. He began acquiring other catalogues during the 1950s, including the Broadway Music Corporation at the end of the decade. This was run by Albert von Tilzer, who had penned the Andrews Sisters hit *I'll Be With You In Apple Blossom Time* and what became the American baseball anthem *Take Me Out To The Ball Game*.

Kassner's intuitive knack of sensing a hit song spread across virtually all pop genres from rhythm & blues specialist Chuck Willis, whose *I Feel So Bad* was recorded by Elvis Presley through the teeny pop *Bobby's Girl*, a British hit for Susan Maughan, and an instrumental success such as *How Lucky You Are*, which was recorded by *Portrait of My Love* recorded by Matt Monro.

Kassner signed the Kinks to a publishing and management deal in 1964, resulting in a string of hits by Ray Davies, such as *You Really Got Me*, *All Day And All Of The Night* and *A Well Respected Man*. Kassner's canny awareness of trends and changes in the music business prompted him to found President Records in 1968. Singer-songwriters and bands who wrote their own material were increasing in

number and often launched their own publishing operations. Kassner viewed President as a parallel and complementary adjunct of his publishing interests and the label scored success in its first year with a Top 20 entry, *I Feel Love Comin' On* written by Barry White and sung by Felice Taylor. President's multi-racial band the Equals — one of whom was a youthful Eddy Grant — topped the European charts with *Baby Come Back* and Rick Wakeman's association with the Kassner group produced 30 albums and over 100 songs.

In 1991, Radio 2 broadcast *The Edward Kassner Story* chronicled his unique success. He leaves a wife, Eileen, three sons, two daughters and seven grandchildren.

Nigel Hunter

Edward Kassner, music publisher, born February 28, 1920; died November 19, 1996

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Edward Kassner... Bill Haley launched his success

Jackdaw



Eat Cake

EVERY year, just after Thanksgiving, writes Truman Capote in *A Christmas Memory*, his elderly cousin would wake up and officially announce, "It's fruitcake weather." Out would come the fruitcake fund, a year's collection of dimes and nickels, and off the two friends would go to collect the ingredients: candied fruits — cherries, ginger — candied pineapple, raisins — vanilla and other spices, butter and walnuts. They'd pay a visit to Mr. Hafiz Jones, the local bootlegger, for the all-important whiskey. Once the ingredi-

ents were gathered, Capote and his cousin would head home to the kitchen where a big, black stove glowed. "Eggs beaters whirl, spoons spin round in bowls of butter and sugar," Capote writes. "... I feel like I'm right there with them, sharing their delight in the exotic, jewel-like fruits, the mysterious spices, the sinful whiskey."

In describing the smells, the excitement, and the atmosphere of love in the kitchen, Capote reveals — perhaps even more than he intended to — how deeply the innocent ritual touched him. These moments may well have been as important to him as any of the heady high points of his famous life. Why does Capote's story mean so much to me? ... Maybe it's because this tale is so much about the sensual pleasures of food, and about the intimacy that cooking encourages. Now I know that fruitcake is not everybody's cup of tea. ... Russell Baker claims that his own distaste for it stems from "a Christmas dinner when, at the age of 15, I dropped a small piece of fruit-

cake and shattered every bone in my right foot." *The American foodie mag Savor* (motto: "Savor a World of Authentic Cuisine") on literary seasonal pleasures.

Clive 'n' Bert

TWO 20th-century philosophers whose names are inseparable, Ludwig Wittgenstein and Bertrand Russell, were such a great double act that there simply has to be a buddy movie sooner or later. At last, the material is all set to be licked into a script. Ray Monk has now matched his justly lauded biography of Wittgenstein with a fat and equally enthralling first volume wrapping up the earlier half of Russell's long life — Bertrand Russell: *The Spirit of Solitude 1872-1918*. — and is sitting on the hottest Hollywood prospect since Paul Newman and Robert Redford signed on for *Burch Cassidy* and the *Sundance Kid*. Every A-list male star will want to play Wittgenstein — the philosopher who blew away all the other philosophers, including Russell —

so, although Lyle Lovett looks the part and Arnie has the accent, Tom Cruise will probably get the job, armed with a *Tequila* (motto: "Savor a World of Authentic Cuisine") on literary seasonal pleasures.

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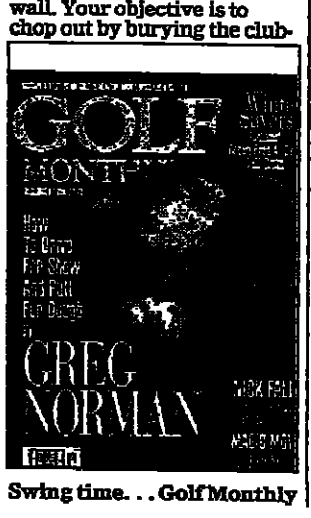
fourth Stooze. Monk does his best to lend Russell dignity and stature, but that's the way it comes out, like a fanfare from a whoopee cushion. It took Russell a long time to get here. While he was alive, he was a sage. Even in his last phase, when he recklessly allowed himself to be set up as the star in various World Peace tent shows that had little to do with any known world and nothing to do with peace, he was regarded as, at worst, a supermind whose bonnet had been unaccountably perched by fashion-able bees. In his early life, he was universally assumed to be a genius. For all most of us know, he was.

Clive James for once actively earning the very large sum that we hope *The New Yorker* pays him for a book review.

Game Golf

AT THE 1966 British Open at Muirfield Phil Rodgers taught me a way of escaping from what seemed like an impossible situation in the sand when the ball is near the rear bank or wall of a bunker

that is too steep to permit a normal swing... stabilise yourself for a hard hit by wriggling your feet deep into the sand. Once you are secure, simply pick the club straight up by folding your arms exactly as you would chop up an axe into a log lying on the ground. Then hit down hard with your right hand about two inches behind the ball. Your objective is to chop out by burying the club-



head in the sand behind it, so forget about a follow-through. *If Jack Nicklaus writes that this works (as he does in Golf Monthly), it works. You wish.*

Second Helen

ACCORDING to Heinrich Schliemann's keenest detractors, his life was not merely stranger than fiction; it was fiction. But the facts accepted even by those who most strongly suspect his honesty make it an amazing story. Born in poverty in 1822, the son of a dissolute and lecherous Lutheran pastor in the eastern German town of Neuhukow, he made himself immensely rich through the Indigo trade in Russia, dealing in gold in California, and profiteering during the Crimean War. He was shipwrecked off the Dutch coast, lucky to escape with his life; he almost perished from starvation in Panama. Even his method of courtship was exceptional. His first marriage, to a Russian, having failed, he resolved to find a second wife. A Greek would be best, he decided, and

so he wrote to an archbishop of his acquaintance, asking him to look out for suitable candidates. Photographs should be sent, he said; as a good reader of faces, he was confident that he could judge a person's character from her picture. Having picked out a girl of 16, 30 years younger than himself, he went to Athens to interview her. After putting the appropriate questions (he asked her when the Emperor Hadrian had visited Athens, and required her to recite some lines of Homer), he proposed, and (since he was very rich) was accepted. Nineteen days after their first meeting, they were married. *Richard Jenkins in the New York Review of Books on the life of that cockle-walk grave-rober who made off with the gold of Troy and claimed his most marvellous find was the very mask of Agamemnon.*

You can E-mail us, we're jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-718 4366; Jackdaw, *The Guardian*, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Edited by Vanessa Hartlove

صوتنا من الامم

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

NatWest to shed 10,000 staff • Union talks of jobless ghettos • Ombudsman slates administration

Uncaring banks under fire

Richard Miles

THE Banking Ombudsman Laurence Shurman rebuked banks yesterday for taking too little care when closing branches and cutting jobs. He said that it had led to some "horrendous" cases of maladministration.

Mr Shurman's criticism came on the same day as NatWest Bank confirmed plans to shed 10,000 jobs and cut the number of processing centres from 150 to 60 by the end of the decade.

His annual report also reveals that the number of complaints about mortgages and lending has soared in recent years. Of the 736 complaints accepted for full investigation in the past year, a third concerned lending, compared to just 8.5 per cent in 1993.

Gripecash cash machines dropped to 6.5 per cent of the total, against 36 per cent in 1992, largely as a result of an industry move to limit customers' liability to £50 in the event of disputed or "phantom" withdrawals.

During the year, the ombudsman secured compensation totalling almost £1 million after finding in favour of 53 per cent of complainants. The highest payout was £36,740 and the lowest £15, with the average pegged at £2,815.

Mr Shurman, who will retire as ombudsman at the end of this year, called on banks to deal more speedily and more willingly with complaints. He also asked for the maximum payout to be lifted from £100,000 to £250,000 and for the code of banking practice to be strengthened.

Notebook

Water firms' logic is leaking



Edited by Mark Milner

TURNING inefficient public sector concerns into world-beating companies is supposed to be a British local speciality. Indeed Ian Lang, the trade and industry secretary, is today hosting a conference to offer that expertise to other countries.

Clearly that matters — and will matter more, if and when Europe gets a single currency. London has built up a top slot in the global foreign exchange market, though sterling is by no means the most heavily traded currency, and can reasonably expect to maintain its lead.

But it will scarcely be able to compete in the market for euro-denominated products — not least against Frankfurt, which will have the advantage of playing host to the European Central Bank — if its structures are either archaic, or unfamiliar to international players, or both.

The research published yesterday by the Independent Centre for the Study of Regulated Industries shows that customers of the 10 English and Welsh regional water companies are paying on average 4.6 per cent more in real terms for water and sewerage than when the industry was privatised seven years ago.

Daewoo derailed

THE French privatisation commission's decision to reject the Lagardère/Daewoo takeover of defence and consumer electronics firms Thomson has Gallic charm, though free marketeers will be throwing their hands up in horror.

The commission, it appears, was prepared to sanction the defence side of the deal involving Thomson, Lagardère and, by extension, British Aerospace. But it jibbed at letting Daewoo take over the consumer business on the grounds that it did not have sufficiently strong commitments on keeping jobs and business in France.

It may be that Daewoo can pump up its offer to overcome the commission's reluctance, though it would be unfortunate if the South Korean company were to get the impression that France is playing the kind of game that once saw all imports of Japanese video recorders routed through an isolated customs post in Poitiers.

More to the point it shows the extent to which at least some in the French establishment have failed to take on board what is happening in the defence industry, not just in France, nor even in Europe, but on a global basis.

The industry is merging and rationalising, on an awesome scale in the US. Look no further than Lockheed Martin, Boeing and McDonnell Douglas are edging closer, even though talk of a merger is described as "pre-mature". Europe, by contrast, has talked much but done little since then. It is, it is, AG, or SA, still looks a long way off. That will continue to be the case if important parts of the process can be derailed on unrelated — if domestic — political sensitivities — grounds.

Paris hotel sold to prince

Ian King

GRANADA Group is to sell its George V hotel in Paris, one of the Exclusive Hotels it acquired in January's £3.9 billion takeover of Forte, to Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal of Saudi Arabia for \$104 million.

The deal, announced yesterday, is the second in a planned \$1 billion sale of Exclusive hotels. Hyde Park Hotel, London, went to Mandarin Oriental International for \$86 million two weeks ago. Granada still has 15 Exclusive hotels.

The price of the 258-room George V, which opened in 1928, works out at just over \$400,000 per room, compared with the £485,000 per room paid by Mandarin for the 256-room per room paid by the Barclay brothers for the Ritz Hotel.



Blow for BAe but GEC may gain as French suspend Thomson sell-off

Roger Cowe

THE future of Europe's defence industry was thrown up in the air again yesterday when the French government suspended plans to privatise Thomson, the defence and electronics group.

The hiatus opens up the possibility that GEC might yet come out of the affair with a bigger involvement in the French defence business.

But it rebounded on British Aerospace, which had been expected to benefit from the sale to its missile partner Lagardère. Separately, BAe agreed yesterday with Rheinmetall to buy STN, the defence technology unit of bankrupt German shipping group Brummer.

The French government announced in October that Thomson would be sold to Lagardère for just one franc, rather than to GEC's main partner, Alcatel.

But yesterday the finance ministry announced that the sale was off. The decision followed a surprise veto from the privatisation commission, which must approve all state sales but was expected merely to rubber-stamp the deal.

It objected to Lagardère's planned sale of Thomson's loss-making multimedia business to the Korean electronics company Daewoo. Thomson has built up its consumer operations through a series of takeovers, including the purchase of the last British-owned television manufacturer, Ferguson, from Thorn EMI.

The government insisted yesterday that the privatisation will still go ahead, although the European Union is

investigating the proposed £11 billion write-off involved in the sale. The finance ministry said both original bidders were still in the frame.

Analysts said yesterday that Lagardère was still the most likely buyer, if it can find an acceptable formula for hiring off Thomson's consumer operation. But Alcatel is still in with a chance because it has made it clear that it would be prepared to keep the multimedia side.

GEC is closely involved with Alcatel through its Alstom power joint venture, which is negotiating to buy the French nuclear power company Framatome. But, in addition, GEC has a satellite deal with Lagardère's Matra as well as a sonar venture with Thomson.

But public opinion, whipped up by the Socialist opposition, remained opposed to the deal, which would have given Daewoo the loss-making consumer business for just one franc.

The privatisation commission said it was also worried about France losing access to advanced technology, such as decoders and flat computer screens.

Officials at Daewoo said they were "outraged" by the decision.

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Money markets to be opened up

MARK MILNER reports on moves to bring City into international line

THE Bank of England yesterday moved to support London's position as an international financial centre when it unveiled plans for the biggest reform of the money market this century.

The changes will involve effectively opening the market to a range of domestic and international financial institutions, bringing London into line with other big financial centres.

And as the Bank noted carefully: "The changes are consistent with the direction and spirit of the proposals currently under discussion at the European Monetary Institute for future monetary operations in the euro, which are of relevance whether or not the UK participates in monetary union."

The Bank's money market operations are central to the conduct of monetary policy. It is through its daily interventions that it sets the short term interest rates which in turn influence interest rates throughout the economy.

line with the monetary policy laid down by the Chancellor or, less often, mopping up surplus cash from the banks themselves.

Traditionally the Bank has worked through the discount houses — small, highly specialist firms which have enjoyed an exclusive relationship with the Bank for more than a century — offering cash in exchange for a defined range of securities, such as Treasury bills and some local authority bonds.

Now the Bank plans to broaden its operations to include the £15 billion-a-day gilt repo market where government bonds are swapped for cash with an agreement that they will be repurchased at a given date.

Properly supervised banks, building societies and securities houses — both from Britain and the European Economic Area — will be invited to take part directly in the money markets through the gilt repo market.

The Bank's executive director, Ian Plenderleith, said: "We think the changes will foster the development of efficient and competitive money markets in London and that they will help to strengthen further London's pre-eminent international position."

Delta set to buy rival to become top airline

Kath Harper and Celia Weston

THE American aerospace industry appeared to be facing its biggest shake-up in decades last night as it emerged that Delta is poised to create the world's largest airline through buying rival US giant Continental Airlines.

News of the possible takeover came as aircraft-maker Boeing was reported to be gearing up to bid for defence specialist McDonnell Douglas, which recently lost out on a \$500 billion contract to be part of the consortium to build the next generation of US fighter aircraft.

Both developments are seen by analysts as part of the continuing global shake-out of the civil and defence aerospace industries, in which the Americans are regrouping in response to rationalisation in Europe and the perceived threat of developing manufacturers from the Pacific Rim. It includes the planned tie-up

between British Airways and American Airlines, the two biggest transatlantic carriers. The two American airlines, third- and fifth-largest, which between them carry about one in four of all US airline passengers, are reported to be in the preliminary stages of an agreement. Delta and Continental would have a stock market value of \$7.4 billion (\$4.5 billion) and any deal would add Continental's hub in Newark, New Jersey, to Delta's main hub in Atlanta, Georgia.

In a separate development, Ronald Woodard, Boeing's chairman, said it was too early to conclude that co-operation with McDonnell Douglas on the building of Boeing's wide-body 747 airliners would lead to a full-blown merger. "Let us first put our co-operation programme into action," he said.

Mr Woodard also warned that the apparent recovery in the industry was not as rapid as some thought. Despite large new orders there was a need for caution, he said.

Controls to be tightened on London's alternative market

Patrick Donovan City Editor

THE Stock Exchange last night unveiled plans to turn the regulatory screws on the fledgling Alternative Investment Market, on which shares in nearly 250 companies are now traded — including demands that they issue a "wealth warning" to would-be investors.

The move comes amid growing criticism of inadequate controls on companies listed on the secondary market, the capitalisation of which has soared to more than \$5 billion since its launch in June last year.

Among the reforms are measures intended to give far more advance warning of the intention to float, together with much more detailed information about those involved in the proposed listing.

Companies intending to go for a listing will now have to give ten days' notice rather than the current 72-hour qualifying period. The Stock Exchange might also require that it will give prospective investors more opportunity to study a prospective flotation. It will also require full details about financial advisers and details of directors with an interest in the company, houses with a long way off. That will continue to be the case if important parts of the process can be derailed on unrelated — if domestic — political sensitivities — grounds.

Table with 4 columns: Country, Bank, Rate, and another column. Includes Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, USA.

Handwritten scribble at the bottom of the page.

Bass hopes for 7,000 new jobs as MMC looks at takeover

Lisa Buckingham

BASS, the brewing and leisure group whose empire ranges from Holiday Inn hotels to Gala bingo clubs, expects to create about 7,000 jobs this year as part of a £70 million investment programme.

But the company, which added 6,000 jobs to its UK workforce last year, making a total of around 77,000, said it would resist paying a minimum wage as promoted by Labour.

The chairman, Sir Ian Prosser, said the imposition of a minimum wage, which has been accepted by many service groups, could endanger the company's least profitable pubs. Bass could be forced to make some employees redundant rather than create new openings.

Sir Ian said the jobs to be created in 1997 would be the equivalent of full-time vacancies. Most will be in the Bass Taverns division, where the provision of food, and longer opening hours, had increased staff demand. About 1,500 would occur in the leisure business.

The company plans to spend about £300 million on its pubs and estates including O'Neils, All Bar One and Harvesters in an attempt to take advantage of buoyant consumer spending over the next year.

Although the rise in employee numbers is increasing overheads for Bass, Sir Ian said that converting the group's large roadside pubs into, for example, a Harvesters format was doubling sales. Details of the job creation plan emerged as Bass unveiled a 12 per cent rise in profits to £971 million, helped by strong sales of its Caffrey's cream ale and its top selling ale, Hooplers Hoop.

Shares sagged by 1p to 810p in a falling market, even though profits were in line with expectations and Bass suggested outlook was bullish.

reflected, in part, a growing conviction that Bass's £200 million acquisition of Carlsberg-Tetley will be devalued for at least six months by a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry.

Sir Ian claimed the acquisition would improve competition in the brewing business and denied it would give Bass certain regional monopolies, such as the Midlands.

But it is understood that the Office of Fair Trading has recommended a full inspection by the MMC. The Department of Trade and Industry is expected to take a decision within the next fortnight.

Bass has, however, already established teams of staff to look at where savings, mainly service jobs, can be achieved when the brewing business, formerly part-owned by Allied Domecq, is integrated.

Sir Ian declined to comment on the outcome and said he had no idea of the timing of a government decision. He said Bass is keen for the earliest possible resolution.

The company's results showed a strong growth in its Holiday Inns business, branded drinks and Bass Taverns although soft drinks company, Britvic, as well as the betting businesses—Gala bingo and Coral—suffered.

Car companies Rover and Honda, and food processing company Moy Park, announced the creation of several hundred jobs yesterday in Northern Ireland, *writes Chris Barrie*.

Rover, which is stepping up the pace of new car development, is looking for 100 specialist engineers to staff its Gaydon engineering centre in Warwickshire. Honda, aiming at output of 150,000 cars by late 1998, is recruiting 250 shopfloor "associates" at its Swindon manufacturing plant.

Moy Park, part of US group OSI Industries, is investing £31.5 million over four years in Northern Ireland. About £10 million will be spent on a food processing plant at Dungannon in County Tyrone, creating 350 jobs.



Barry Gamble, chairman and chief executive of woodland manager Fountain Forestry, gets assistance in his preparations for the company's AIM market debut. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GOODMAN

Williams hunts for acquisitions after £360m sale

OUTLOOK/ Management buy-out of Rawlplug, Valor and Aqualisa sharpens focus on core areas, writes IAN KING

WILLIAMS Holdings, the home improvement, security and fire protection group whose brands include Yale Locks and Polycell, said yesterday it was hunting for acquisitions and was prepared to splash out up to £500 million in the process.

This emerged as Williams announced the sale, for £360 million, of 15 of its UK building products businesses to a management buy-out team.

The businesses being sold include some of the best-known names in home products, including Rawlplug, Valor—the market leader in gas fires—Swish curtain tracks, Dreamland electric blankets and Aqualisa, the shower supplier.

The sale marks the culmination of a period in which Williams has made rigorous efforts to focus its businesses

on three defined areas, mainly through disposals, in an attempt to shake off its image as a lumbering 1980s-style conglomerate.

Backed by venture capitalists Candover and Electra, the management buy-out team is led by former Williams director Mike Davies, and is stumping up what is described as a "substantial amount" of its own money in the process.

Both Williams and the team said yesterday that the new company, Newmond, which now employs 3,500 and made pre-tax profits of £32.1 million last year, would eventually be floated on the stock market. The pair also emphasised that the sale was not international enough for Williams, is not simply being dumped, but we are looking to strengthen and develop our international positions.

done when previously selling other businesses to management teams, like the engineering group Cortworth, in which it still holds a 20 per cent stake.

Following the sale, which gives it a one-off gain of £246 million, Williams has wiped out its remaining borrowings at a stroke.

More importantly, the company now has the financial

flexibility to expand its existing businesses, while management, free from the need to make further disposals, will have more time to hunt down appropriate acquisition targets.

As Sir Nigel Rudd, chairman of Williams, put it: "We have not de-gearred our balance sheet just to sit on cash in the bank."

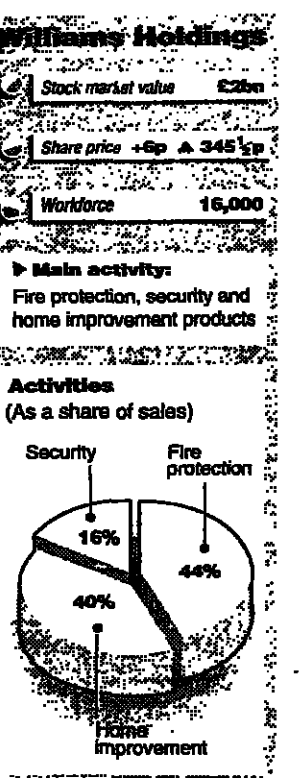
At the same time, the number of business areas covered by Williams has narrowed, leaving the company with a portfolio that is no longer a sprawling mess.

The three areas on which Williams will be concentrating—fire protection, security and home improvement goods—are expected to expand rapidly during the next few years, as living standards climb across much of the world, while the activities themselves have plenty of overlap.

But, while Williams is now worlds apart from Tomkins, the conglomerate with which it used to be compared, Sir Nigel says he cannot be bothered to grumble about the conglomerate label. As the shares rose 5p to 344½p, in response to yesterday's deal, neither could his City fan club.

Williams claims to have kicked its old habit of reshuffling assets regularly. But by selling businesses at a steady profit, as he did yesterday, and recycling the proceeds in fast-growing, higher margin activities, as he promises to do, Sir Nigel is still sticking to the old routine.

However, if he can combine this with keeping Williams firmly focused, the shares could well be worth backing. They rose 5p yesterday to close at 345½p.



Carlton looks to pay-TV for profit

Lisa Buckingham

MICHAEL Green's Carlton Communications media group said yesterday that it planned to expand its pay-TV interests with potentially big moves into cable, satellite and digital broadcasting.

The group also hinted that more takeovers could follow its dramatic last minute intervention to snap up Westcountry TV to make Carlton the first ITV company to control three licences.

It is understood that Carlton will separate out its broadcast regions it controls—Carlton Central and now Westcountry—in order to renegotiate the annual amount it pays to the government in return for its broadcast licence.

The group hopes to extend the length of Central's £2,000 a year regime while securing a substantial reduction from

the Independent Television Commission in the £43 million fees paid by its London station.

Mr Green, whose group unveiled a 20 per cent profit increase to £265.1 million in the year to September, said that although "many of the most tangible opportunities lie within our existing businesses" Carlton would continue to look at takeover opportunities.

A spokesman said the Westcountry bid—which hoisted the station out of the clutches of rival United News—showed Carlton could act quickly. He added that the group was more interested in profits than increasing its size.

Carlton already accounts for about 34 per cent of ITV's revenues and the company raised operating profits from its television division by 5 per cent to £129.4 million.

The group produced a 33 per cent increase in the profits of its products division which provides broadcast services.

Active calls truce in Greycote battle

Ian King

THE predatory UK Active Value Fund, run by South Africans Brian Myerson and Julian Treger, declared a truce last night in its battle with Greycote, the property company in which it is the biggest shareholder.

UK Active, which had tabled a break-up resolution to be discussed at an extraordinary meeting later today, said that, after talks with Greycote, it would now be abstaining at the meeting.

The fund said it was satisfied with the future strategy the Greycote board had decided to pursue, singling out Monday's decision to sell office property at London's Embankment Place, which the fund said would release some £100 million to be returned to shareholders.

UK Active also said it expected to see further progress towards "unlocking value" at

Greycote, probably involving a sale of the group's other main London property at 123 Buckingham Palace Road.

Mr Myerson denied suggestions he had climbed down ahead of a likely defeat at today's meeting. "They're going to sell up to 80 per cent of their assets and return the money to shareholders, what we wanted them to do."

Even though welcoming the news, Greycote said there were still a number of "incurables" in UK Active's comments, notably the claim that Embankment Place would release over £100 million to shareholders. Chairman Michael Beckett said: "We regret the unnecessary diversion and cost over the last two months but are pleased that UK Active has realised the shortcomings of its proposal."

Moorefield Estates, the property group which has tabled proposals to Greycote, says it is pressing ahead with its plans.

Underside Dan Atkinson

A NEW twist in the long-running show of the decade, Executive Hog-Trough. One of the FTSE 100 companies featured in the Daily Telegraph's Fantasy Board game (buy real directors, with cost-based salaries, then tot up real-life share performances) is livid with the way its chief's salary was reported in the game. Ho hum, another complaint about exaggerated pay packets? Nope: the published pay ought to have been higher, to the tune of 200 big ones.

LAUGHT? You never will. That japester Laurence Shurman, the banking ombudsman, lurches into "comedy" on page 21 of his annual report. That gag in full: "How do you stop a herd of elephants from charging? Take away their credit cards."

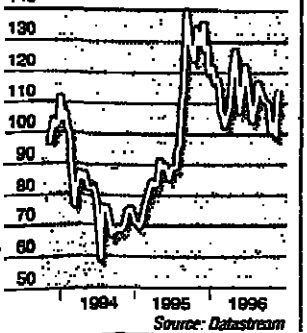
3.14 (that's Pi for Piousness) update. Kicking off with solicitors Eversheds,

whose legal SOS on works Christmas parties states: "managers have a duty to ensure parties do not get out of hand", and warns bosses that sacking people for overdoing the low alcohol punch may land them before industrial tribunals... on to the Tory Party, an impoverished but worthy outfit, according to a letter from Chairman Mandy Whinney MD, pleading thus for £20: "Unlike Labour who can expect heavy support from the trade unions, we have to rely on donations from individuals." Must've been another Tory

Party that was bankrolled to Pinto by big business and secret donors... back to the booze, and yesterday's boot-faced "encouragement" from the Health and Safety Executive for firms to develop "an alcohol policy"... finally, our own petit 3.14: did the UK 200 group of accountants specialising in small-ish businesses, have to pick the East India Club for tomorrow's fustian launch? Our female spies tell us trousers and mini-skirts are verboten at the St James's Square mausoleum. UK 200BC perhaps.

TREASURY Tales (1): Huge crowds mustered in cramped, stuffy Committee Room 15 on Tuesday to hang on every word of senior mandarins as they faced a post-Budget grilling by MPs. Close inspection identified most of the throng as Treasury underlings. A touching show of moral support for the big brass? No, no. That Treasury fire had turfed the juniors out of the building, and they had taken refuge in parliament. "It beats standing in the park in the pouring rain," said an insider. Just.

TREASURY Tales (2): Satsuma-in-Chief Sir Terence Burns engaged in animated discussion with an LSE academic at a recent party, waxing lyrical about Gayle, Earle, Campbell and Walker. Distinguished economists with new theories on monetary control? Try two Wimbledon midfielders followed by two Spurs defenders, all members of TB's fantasy-football team. He should take nothing for granted: Earle scored on Saturday as Wimbledon extended their unbeaten run to 17 games, but Walker let in a soft goal on Monday as Spurs lost 2-0 at home to Liverpool.

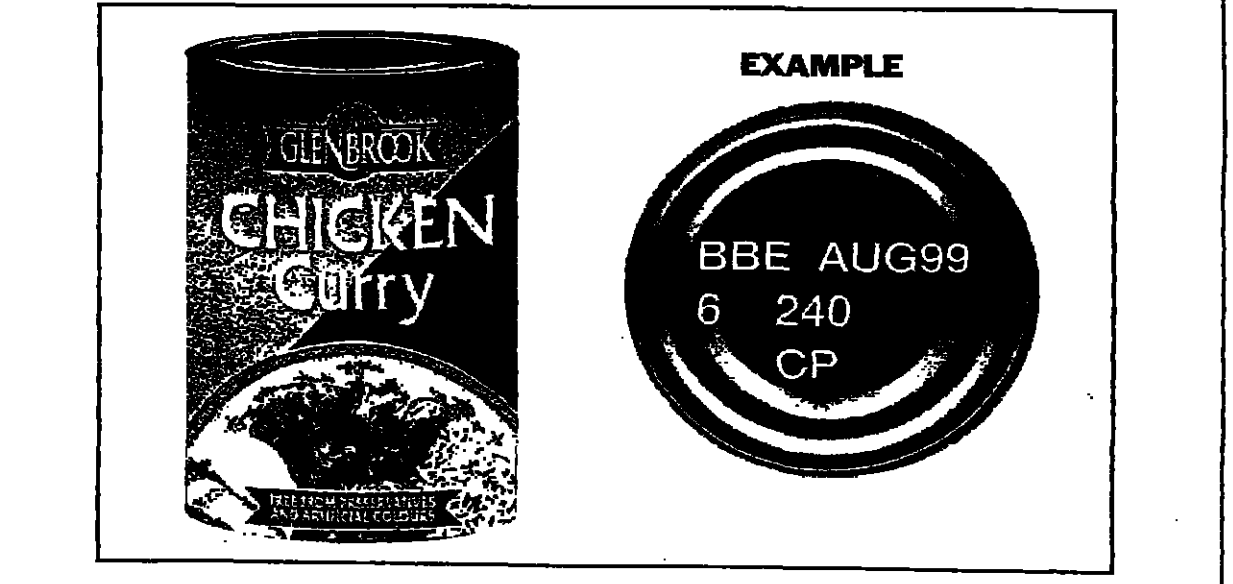


CUSTOMER CARE ANNOUNCEMENT

GLENBROOK FOODS LIMITED
RECALL OF CHICKEN CURRY

We have detected that in a very limited number of instances, pieces of glass visible to the human eye may have entered some tinned product. This affects the following product only:

GLENBROOK CHICKEN CURRY in 368g tins
batch codes 6240 and 6241 only
These batch codes are located on the lids of tins as shown:



We have already arranged withdrawal from stores but we are concerned that consumers may still have tins with these codes at home. If this is the case, please do not consume the product, but return the tin(s) to the stores at which you purchased for a full refund.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. We stress that only the above codes need be returned and that no other Glenbrook Foods products are affected.

Any queries in relation to this notice should be directed to our freephone information line on:

0800 24 24 28
This will be open from 8am until 8pm from 5th December 1996 onwards

صوتنا من الامم

Tennis

Agassi gets the money and runs

Stephen Bierley in Munich

FOR the second time in two weeks yesterday...

body expects the tennis to be marvellous at this time of year...



What a racket... Agassi, thrashed in last week's ATP Finals, gives another pitiful display

I think a few more people know me. I get a little more fan mail...

man whose mind was not on the task, although clearly he had a much better excuse than Agassi.

up his pension nicely. Agassi is probably a little too young yet to be thinking of superannuation himself.

up his pension nicely. Agassi is probably a little too young yet to be thinking of superannuation himself.

Lingfield all-weather programme

Table with race times and names for Lingfield all-weather programme.

Leicester card with guide to the form

Table with race times and names for Leicester card with guide to the form.

Racing

Dunwoody to ride Teinein at Sandown

Chris Hawkins

TONY McCOY has been replaced by Richard Dunwoody on Teinein...

"He's been working very well at home and I told Tony (McCooy) he was a certainty if he stood up..."

Windsor runners and riders

Table with race times and names for Windsor runners and riders.

Leicester card with guide to the form

Table with race times and names for Leicester card with guide to the form.

Results

Table with race results and names for Results section.

RACELINE logo and contact information.

Soccer

Boro fine Emerson £100,000

Michael Walker

EMERSON, Middlesbrough's missing link, yesterday earned a new place in soccer's hall of infamy when it was revealed that he has been fined a total of £100,000 by the club. It is the most swingeing penalty ever levied on a player in Britain.

Middlesbrough's chairman Steve Gibson confirmed that Emerson, who is believed to earn £16,000 a week, has so far been docked six weeks' wages. Gibson said that the fines will continue if the player, who has gone absent without leave three times and is currently in Brazil, does not toe the line.

Emerson has been severely disciplined and, unless his conduct improves, further action will follow," he said. "We will continue to fine him to the maximum amount until he conforms."

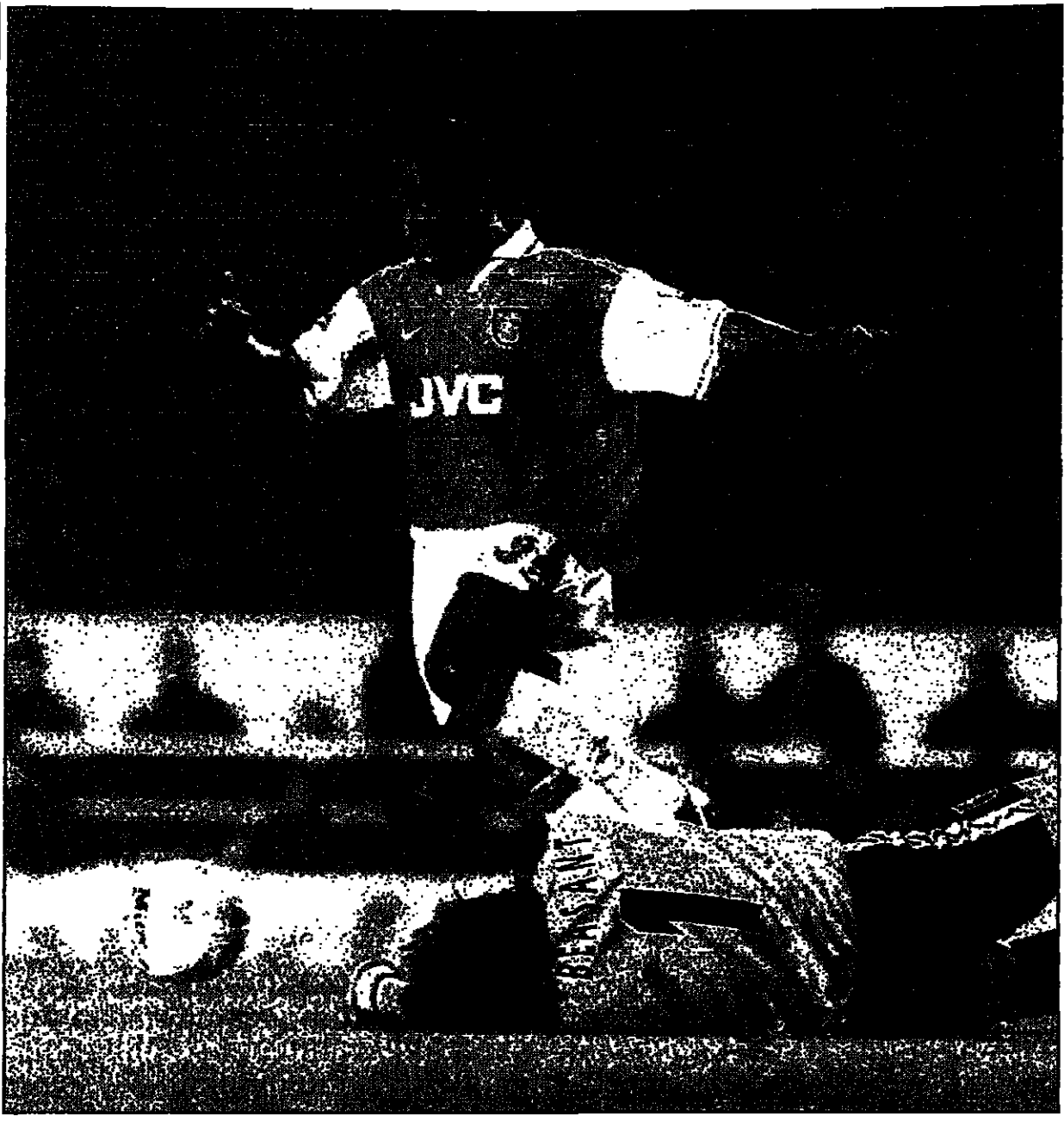
Gibson made his remarks in the course of a wide-ranging attack on the player, his agent and Barcelona, the club allegedly waiting to sign him. Gibson warned the player that all thoughts of a move should be shelved. "He is staying here," he said. "If he doesn't comply he will lose everything and it will cost him his career. He is contracted to us until June 2000,

which will leave him nearly 29 years of age. "We want him to spend the best years of his career with us and win caps for Brazil. We haven't brought him here with a view to allowing him to leave immediately."

Gibson then questioned Barcelona's behaviour behind the scenes. "Barcelona's conduct in this affair requires investigation. There has been a disgraceful manipulation of the player so that somebody can profit from the sale of Emerson to Barcelona. We are disappointed by the player's conduct but he has been badly advised. The events have been carefully orchestrated, possibly with the permission of Barcelona."

Bryan Robson, meanwhile, awaits Emerson's return from his domestic trip to Brazil, although the Middlesbrough manager is not sure when that will be. "We expect him back in a day or two," he said. "But I don't know when for certain."

Emerson is visiting his homesick wife and missed Tuesday night's discouraging defeat by Leicester. Even if he returns in time to face Leeds on Saturday, the Spanish league's month for incoming transfers begins on December 15 and speculation is sure to continue that the Brazilian will replace José Bakero, sold by Barcelona last week.



Wright in his stride... the Arsenal striker missed this chance, but scored later from the penalty spot

Premiership: Arsenal 3, Southampton 1

Merson subdues Saints

Paul Weaver

ARSENAL moved three points clear at the top of the Premiership with this ultimately emphatic victory over a dogged but rarely in front Southampton side, who have now lost four league matches in a row. Graeme Souness's team came to Highbury with only two points from their travels, the worst away record in the Premiership. Being without Le Tissier, Woods and Nielsen, they might have been considered something of a soft touch for the division's leaders and top scorers. But with a six-man midfield and Ostenstad only occasionally supported by Berkovic up front, they succeeded in frustrating Arsenal for most of the first half.

The Gunners were themselves without Seaman, Bergkamp and Keown, and will now lose the important mid-field influence of Vieira. The Frenchman was booked for a 34th-minute challenge on Berkovic and faces a two-match suspension. His yellow card symbolised Arsenal's anxiety but they looked incisive enough early on. Merson's cross in the sixth minute, Dixon might also have made more of a 15th-minute offensive, but misjudged his pass to Platt and the midfielder had to step backwards before scooping the ball over the bar. In the 22nd minute Winterburn's corner was headed across goal by Bould on the near post, but Linighan headed wide. Southampton gathered confidence from Arsenal's wastefulness in front of goal. Magilton headed wide from Berkovic's free-kick, Magilton shot just over, and in the 37th minute Dixon had to clear off the line from the im-

pressive Magilton after a break by Berkovic. Arsenal steadied and finally took the lead in the 44th minute. Platt touched Vieira's free-kick on to Merson, who drilled a right-foot shot just inside the right post. Merson's goal, his seventh of the season, lifted his side for the second half and Southampton struggled to come to terms with the fresh tempo. In the 58th minute Hartson created a good chance for himself with a neat turn but sliced his shot wide. A minute later Merson, with Wright and Hartson waiting at the far post, seemed unable to make up his mind whether to cross or to shoot and ultimately did neither. The target men frowned, but all was forgiven a minute later when Arsenal scored again. Lundekvam was penalised for his challenge on Merson and Wright stepped up to score from the penalty spot, his 20th goal of the season.

Southampton belatedly decided that Ostenstad needed some support up front and brought on Watson for Oakley, but Arsenal then almost increased their lead. Merson declined a shooting opportunity and passed to Wright, who stepped over the ball to leave Hartson clear, but all the unselfishness came to naught when Hartson shot wildly over the bar. Southampton finally scored in the 61st minute when Ostenstad beat Adams and found Berkovic, who shot home from close range, but Arsenal had the last word in the 89th minute when Shaw, substituting for Hartson, scored his first goal for the club. Arsenal: Lukic, Adams, Liginhan, Bould, Souness, Merson, Vieira, Platt (Parker 80th), Winterburn, Wright, Hartson (South 78). Southampton: Seaman; Dryden, Lundekvam, Van Goober, Dodd, Berkovic (53), Magilton, Maddison (51st), Chilton, Canley (Wilson, 66), Berkovic, Ostenstad. Referee: P. Jones (Loughborough).

Case pays for Brighton chaos

BRIGHTON yesterday sacked their manager Jimmy Case, under whom they have won only nine of 58 matches since he replaced Liam Brady just over a year ago. Case has seen his side win only three Third Division matches this season and last week they were knocked out of the FA Cup by Sudbury. George Petchey has been appointed caretaker manager and among those being mentioned as a possible permanent replacement are Gary Stevens and Steve Foster, both Brighton-based. Mark Lawrenson, Newcastle's defence coach, and the team captain Mark Morris. It might, however, be considered a job that nobody wants, as Case claimed last week. But the chief executive David Bellotti told Radio 5 Live last night: "In the last few hours a number of managers who are out of work have spoken to me. They would like to consider coming to Brighton and I shall be meeting some of them. "The chairman [Bill Archer] and I will be taking a decision as quickly as we can. We have 24 league games left and we have to get off that bottom place."

Case was not helped by turmoil off the field. Brighton supporters protested again during Tuesday night's 3-2 home defeat by Darlington. In the latest Premier League game, Brighton lifted them to fifth ahead of Manchester United. Case was not helped by turmoil off the field. Brighton supporters protested again during Tuesday night's 3-2 home defeat by Darlington. In the latest Premier League game, Brighton lifted them to fifth ahead of Manchester United. Case was not helped by turmoil off the field. Brighton supporters protested again during Tuesday night's 3-2 home defeat by Darlington. In the latest Premier League game, Brighton lifted them to fifth ahead of Manchester United.

West Ham United 0, Aston Villa 2

Villa deliver double Hammers blow

Mark Redding

WITH just over a third of the season gone, Aston Villa are having to work hard to prevent their championship challenge subsiding. Last night's hard-earned victory against West Ham lifted them to fifth ahead of Manchester United who visit Upton Park on Sunday. Knocked out of the UEFA Cup and relieved of their hold on the Coca-Cola Cup, the onus was on Villa to take the game to the home side if they were to rescue something from this campaign. After a

diffident start the visitors eventually prevailed with two goals from set pieces, Ehiogu putting them in front with a header from a corner, Yorke making the game safe in the 74th minute by repeating the trick. West Ham posted a warning in the 13th minute when they should have scored, but the injured Porfiro, played in a sweet ball from the left that put the Northern Ireland striker

clear on goal, but he shot at Oakes's legs. Seven minutes later it was Raducioiu who spurned an opportunity to open his league account with the East. Oakes did well to keep out a fierce drive from Breacker. The ball dropped straight to the Romanian World Cup forward lurking on the edge of the area, but Raducioiu shinned it disappointingly over the bar. Slowly Villa were beginning to stir. Milosevic had already tested Mikkosko with a dipping half-volley when almost all expectations of visitors took the lead. Draper

dropped in a corner from the left and Ehiogu rose above the crowd to head firmly into the top corner. As the restless crowd began to vent their anger, West Ham slipped back into their shell. Now it was the visitors' chance to spurn opportunities. Nelson's one-two with Milosevic carved open the West Ham defence in the 50th minute but the right-back lost his nerve and shot wide. West Ham: Shelton; Mitchell, Breacker (Bowers, 66th), Ripper, Bill, Dicks, Hughes, Bishop, Mounir, Rowland, Lush, 6-0, Dowie, Raducioiu, Nelson, 6-0, Quinn, Swann, Nelson, Thompson, 6-0, Taylor, Taylor, Townsend, Yorke, Milosevic. Referee: M. Riley (Leeds).

Charlton rejects chance to revive Grimsby fortunes

JACK CHARLTON has rejected the opportunity to return to the English game as director of football at Grimsby, struggling in the First Division. The club's chairman Bill Carr revealed yesterday that the 61-year-old Charlton was first approached a fortnight ago but after much thought he had opted to stay out of the game, having resigned as the Republic of Ireland manager last year after almost a decade in charge. Grimsby dismissed their previous manager Brian Laws more than a month ago and have Kenny Swain in temporary charge, but the chairman admits they delayed a permanent appointment in the hope that Charlton would join them. Carr said Charlton "did not want the day-to-day pressure of running a club again. We approached him through Lawrie McMenemy, who has been very helpful in this matter". McMenemy, a former Grimsby manager and now director of football at Southampton, talked to Charlton on behalf of the Blundell Park club but was unable to persuade him out of retirement. Carr hinted that Swain would now be appointed permanently. "We won't be letting the managerial situation

drag, but these things take time. "We are quite happy with how things are going on the field. We think Kenny is doing a great job." Charlton, a 1986 World Cup winner with England while a Leeds player, managed Middlesbrough, Newcastle and Sheffield Wednesday before being appointed by the Football Association of Ireland in 1990. Liverpool have rejected Glenn Hoddle's attempt to appoint the Anfield assistant manager Doug Liviermore to England's coaching staff. Hoddle wanted Liviermore to join his back-room team in the build-up to internationals, and made an official approach before England's 2-0 win in Georgia last month. But Liviermore decided that it would not be in their interests to allow Roy Evans's right-hand man leave of absence, even on a part-time basis. Hoddle, disappointed at the outcome, will now look elsewhere. The FA spokesman Steve Double said: "Glenn is not giving up and is still looking to get another coach for his team." Hedgesford, of the GM Vauxhall Conference, have been charged with misconduct by the FA over alleged irregularities in a ground-improvement grant application.

Results

Table containing various sports results including Soccer, Football, Basketball, Tennis, and other leagues.

Champions Cup final round, Group A

Auxerre 2, Rangers 1

Rangers end on a flat note

Patrick Glenn in Auxerre

AUXERRE secured the result they needed to take them to the last eight of the Champions Cup against a makeshift Rangers team who had, predictably, more fight than fitness. If the margin of victory seems a little skinny, it may be ascribed to collective determination by the Scots and individual defiance by their goalkeeper Goram.

let's own work. In midfield, the Auxerre striker ran on to a pass from his own defence and simply motored past four Rangers players on his way into the area before stabbing the ball past the helpless Goram.

Rangers' counter only four minutes later was a welcome reminder to Auxerre that there was still work to be done. Steven, played in for the first time in three years, flighted a free-kick from the left and Gough stole in behind Rabarivony to head past Cool from eight yards.

But the problems that Rangers carried into the match — half the regular team missing because of injury and suspension — began to have a debilitating effect in the second half, when Auxerre spent much of the time swarming all over them.

Saib came close to scoring when he rushed to meet Violeau's precise, low centre from the right, but his side-footed shot slid inches wide of the goal. Lepaul was then released on the left and chose the shot rather than the cut-back.

Powerfully struck, the ball would have hit the target but for Goram's stretch to tip it over the bar. Rangers had to make changes again. In Vossen having gone off injured at the interval, with Wilson taking his place, and a little later, McCost replacing Petric.

The playing surface having been made treacherous by torrential rain for most of the day, it was, all round, a trying night for the Scottish champions.

It was Rabarivony's cross from the left which started the process, Marlet meeting it eight yards from goal and heading powerfully to the right of Goram. The goalkeeper made a fine save but was unfortunate to see the ball rebound straight to Laslandes, who volleyed it home from close range.

The second goal, in the 31st minute, was virtually all Mar-

Keep your shirt on, Ginola tells fussy referees

Michael Walker

sees no harm in Asprilla's 'excessive goal celebration'

IT COULD be said that the flamboyant Faustino Asprilla was hoist by his own petard on Tuesday night. Newcastle United's opening goal against Metz was a long time coming, and after scoring it the Colombian entertained the Swiss referee by indulging in a spot of flag-waving with his shirt in a dark corner of St James' Park. The gifted striker, who is cheered by the Toon Army even when he falls over, was promptly booked by the Swiss referee Serge Muhmantaaler for his shirtless antics and will miss the first-leg match against whomever Newcastle face in the UEFA Cup quarter-finals next month. A minute after collecting this booking Asprilla scored again — an even better goal — and soon afterwards he was carried off with a hamstring injury which will rule him out of Newcastle's next two games at least. One way or the other, he experienced the full gamut of emotions in the game's final 10 minutes.

Asprilla rarely talks about his performances, especially since his interpreter went off to college in London, and his post-match comment — "I was just so happy at helping Newcastle get through" — hardly constituted a soft-barbering exercise.

It was left to David Ginola, the only happy Frenchman in the North-east on Tuesday night, to speak up for Asprilla. Ginola's defence of his team-mate was forthright. "I like Timo, as a guy and as a footballer. He's the sort who just wants to go out and enjoy his football and I admire that in him."

"I think it is a bad situation and, when a player is booked for enjoying himself, a bad decision. People should remember that football is a show and spectacle. It's put on for the benefit of the public, and bringing a bit of fun into the celebrations is good for the fans."

"Kavanielli pulls his shirt over his head and it's a wonder he's not suspended all the time. All right, Timo invented a new celebration but we should be able to live with that. I'm not sure he's realised that by celebrating his goal as he did he would get himself booked."

One consolation for Asprilla is that his hamstring injury may not be as bad as first feared and he could be back to face Liverpool two days before Christmas. Liverpool were the last English team he scored against, in the 4-3 defeat at Anfield in April, and Kevin Keegan clearly still recalls that memorable night.

"We're going through a spell where we're just not playing well at home," said the manager. "And against Metz for long periods we were about as bad as we can be."

"The main thing is that we got through. When you think back to last season and those super displays at Blackburn and Liverpool, when we got nothing, I don't care when Lady Luck smiles on us."



Asprilla... over the top?

Award ices Dundee's cake

THE Karlsruhe striker Sean Dundee, a 28-year-old South African, has been voted Germany's Player of the Year by his fellow professionals. Dundee, who hopes to become a German citizen, beat the VfB Stuttgart striker Giovanni Elber and his Karlsruhe team-mate Thomas

Hessler to the accolade. "It is the first time I've won an award like this," said the Bundesliga's leading scorer. Dundee began last season as an amateur with Karlsruhe but forced his way into the first team and scored 16 league goals. He has scored 12 this season.

Advertisement for Duck City Alan Snow, featuring a cartoon illustration of a man at a computer and promotional text for PC/MAC CD-ROM/R.P.P. £14.99/OUT NOW.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

Cricket

Tour match: Mashonaland v England XI

Houghton heaps on the agony

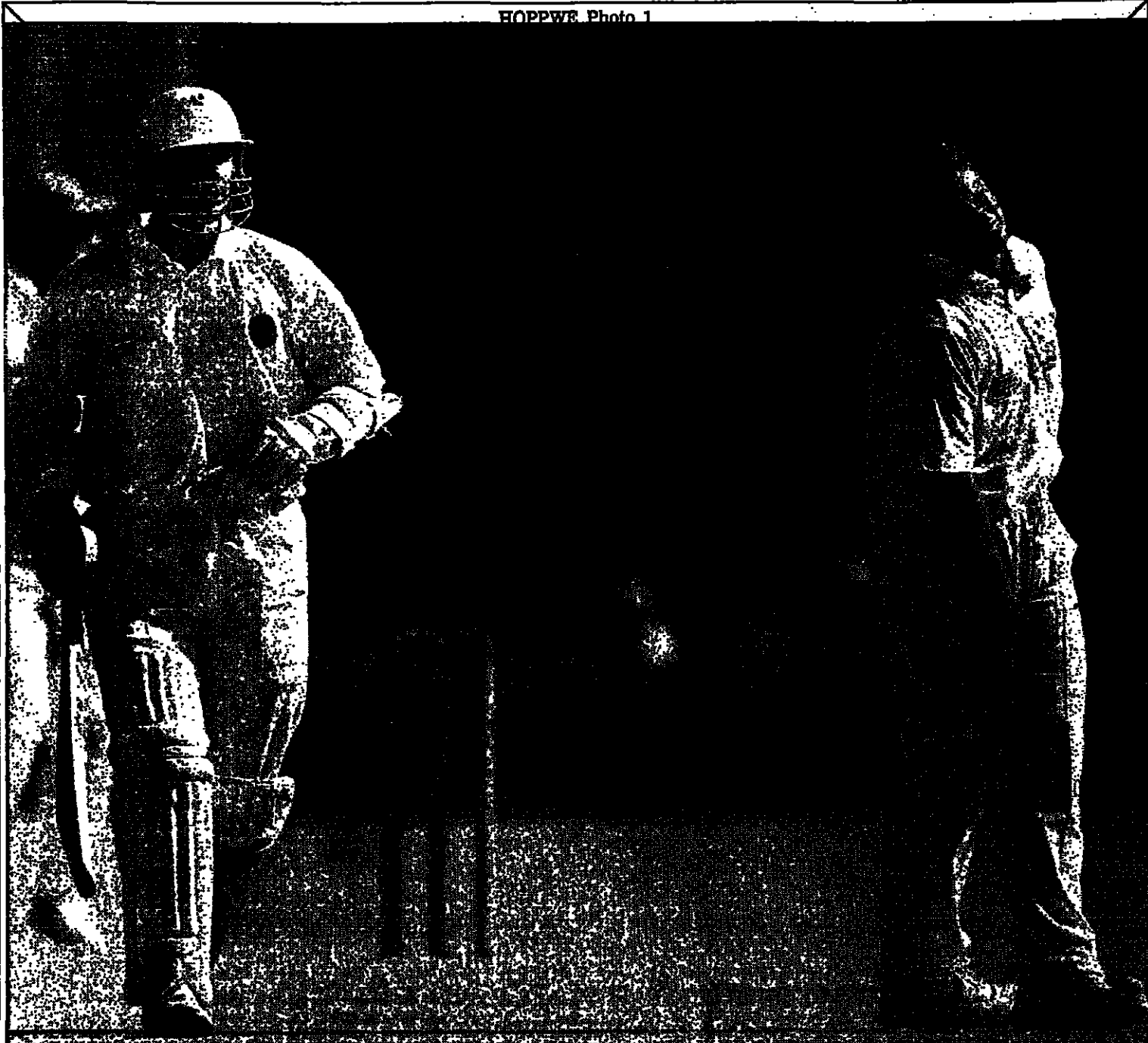
David Hopps in Harare

Now that Graham Gooch no longer runs up fire-escapes in the name of English cricket, David Houghton has inherited the dubious accolade of the oldest Test batsman in the world. It is advisable to remind him of that on good days, and yesterday was one.

Scoreboard

Table with cricket scores for England XI and Mashonaland. Includes batsmen names, runs, and bowling figures.

nine at the close of the second day, lead by 82 on a pitch that has begun to turn so appreciably that the last six wickets fell to Robert Croft and Phil Tufnell within nine overs.



Painful experience... Darren Gough shows his despair as Craig Wishart canters another run against England yesterday

his sixes, including the one that brought up his 100. As the ball rolled to a halt on the rugby outfield he was congratulated, incongruously, by a lone spectator dressed in a Scottish flag.

Wingfield-Digby's unofficial role as England captain was unofficially suspended 18 months ago when Raymond Illingworth banned God and mobile telephones on the same day.

of Croft and Tufnell could not be faulted as they scraped a further 22, Mashonaland's failure to take the last wicket for more than an hour proved a blessing in disguise.

nick has done nothing yet to be deemed worthy of automatic selection for the first Test in Bulawayo.

Saqlain's spell overturns New Zealand

JUDGING by the way Pakistan's Saqlain has polished off New Zealand in the first one-day international in Gujranwala, England's spinners can anticipate some rich pickings against the Kiwis on the second leg of the winter tour.

match in Pakistan's favour after New Zealand had made steady progress in pursuit of the hosts' 238 for eight.

enough to secure the Man of the Match award, which went to Salim Malik for his unbeaten 73. Wasim Akram hit 52 to pass 2,000 runs in one-day internationals.

Elliott to miss third Test because of knee injury

THE right knee injury that the Australian left-hander Matthew Elliott suffered during the second Test against West Indies in Sydney on Monday is more serious than at first thought and he will be out for more than a month.

the third Test which starts in Melbourne on Boxing Day but is now unlikely to be ready for the fourth Test in Adelaide on January 25.

Elliott headed the Australian averages last season and made his Test debut in the first match of the current series in Brisbane as a replacement for the dropped opener Michael Slater.

Rugby Union

Underwood back from Lomu limbo

Robert Armstrong

TONY UNDERWOOD and Victor Ubohu have been added to the England squad of 21 for the international against Argentina at Twickenham on Saturday week.

file matches. Still, I am not the man in possession and I obviously suffer from that if the top two are playing well, as they are.

Rowell will probably announce his match line-up on Monday, having kept his fingers crossed that no one gets injured in the weekend programme of Courage League matches.



Underwood... pizza action

The recall of the 27-year-old Underwood, who has scored 10 tries in 20 internationals, should keep Jon Sleightholme and Adedayo Adebayo looking over their shoulders, though both can be confident after two solid games this campaign.

Clubs' peace deal with the RFU may leave Sir John in the cold

David Plummer

SIR JOHN HALL, one of the most aggressive advocates of club power in the game's new professional era, could find himself isolated this week as the leading clubs make peace with the Rugby Football Union.

Sir John, whose big-name signings at Newcastle Gosforth did much to kick-start rugby union's new play-for-pay ethos, was possibly the staunchest advocate of that so-called alone position.

Motor Racing

Manse to test Jordan

Alan Henry

NIGEL MANSELL must have been on his "fact-finding" visit to the Jordan-Peugeot team's headquarters at Silverstone yesterday. Speculation that the 43-year-old will be tempted back into Formula One grew yesterday when Eddie Jordan announced that Mansell will test one of the Peugeot-engined F1 cars at Barcelona's Circuit de Catalunya next week.

portunity to reacquaint myself with a Formula One car." Jordan said: "I have asked Nigel several times over the years to drive one of my cars but the timing wasn't right. Now it is.



Mansell... back to Barcelona

in the Jordan-Peugeot could well herald a third curtain-call for the man whose F1 career began 16 years ago at the wheel of a third Lotus car in the Austrian GP.

Both he and Jordan are playing down speculation that the two-day test on Wednesday and Thursday will lead to a firm contract for the Englishman, world champion in 1992, to partner the 21-year-old Ralf Schumacher in next year's world championship series.

Squash

Parke finds inner strength

Richard Jago in Bombay

SIMON PARKE'S traumatic year, which began with testicular cancer and continued with a five-month rehabilitation after chemotherapy, may finish in inspirational fashion.

of qualification for the Super Series final at the end of the year. Parke, still weak from his stomach trouble he suffered during last month's World Open in Karachi, tired after going two games and 7-4 up against the Egyptian.

walked out on his opening match in a fit of temper. Parke's hopes of reaching the semi-finals look reasonable, for his next opponent is the world No. 15, Zubeir Jahan from Pakistan.

Ice Hockey

Panthers celebrate backing for new arena

Vic Batscheider

DESPITE the Nottingham Panthers' 4-1 defeat at Sheffield on Tuesday — a result which sent the Steelers to the top of the Superleague — the club's owner Charles Wisner was happy yesterday.

ice rinks on a site adjacent to the present 3,000-capacity, 50-year-old Nottingham Ice Stadium. One of the new rinks will be an 8,000-seat home for the Panthers. Work is expected to begin in the middle of next year and the arena should be ready for the 1999-2000 season.

ward Jason Jennings, formerly with Milton Keynes, from the German side Straubing Tigers and hope he will make his debut in Saturday's Benson and Hedges Cup final against Ayr at Sheffield.

Sport in brief

Sports Politics

Bidders for Britain's Academy of Sport and its £100 million of National Lottery money unveiled their plans yesterday. "We can pledge more medals at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney," said Sir Nigel Rudd, leader of Nottingham Council's consortium which includes Loughborough and Nottingham universities, Queen's Medical Centre and Lillieshall.

Hockey

A new administration for men's and women's hockey in England next June came closer yesterday when the men's ruling body, the Hockey Association, voted 53-10 in favour at a special general meeting, writes Pat Rowley. The women's association, the AEWEA, is holding a postal vote to be declared on Saturday; it needs 90 per cent in favour.

Rugby League

Clubs can now sign six overseas players instead of five, and that may spark a scramble for Australian tal-

ent, writes Paul Fitzpatrick. Super League clubs down under must now nominate first-grade squads of up to 23 players on top salaries, which leaves about 40 players, including the Brisbane Broncos winners Michael Leane and Willie Carne, tied among the world's best, looking for contracts elsewhere.

Soccer

The Dutch First Division will play a Dutch imports XI at FSV Eintracht's Philips Stadium in Rotterdam next Tuesday in a match designed to test new electronic monitoring aids for referees. With close-range microphones and cameras, difficult situations will be replayed on a bank of pitch-side screens in the stadium. UEFA and FIFA are keeping a watching brief.

Advertisement for Damon Hill's book 'ON TOP OF THE WORLD'. Includes a photo of Damon Hill and promotional text.

Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom of the page.

Listless Agassi slides out, page 13
Massive fine for Emerson, page 14

England struggle in the field, page 15
Underwood recalled from limbo, page 15

SportsGuardian

SOCCER



On the way through... Ryan Giggs latches on to a neat pass from Cantona and slides the ball into the net for Manchester United's first goal last night. PHOTOGRAPH: LAURENCE GRIFFITHS

European Champions League final round, Group C: Rapid Vienna 0, Manchester United 2

United waltz it in Vienna

Giggs and Cantona steer path to the quarter-finals

David Lacey in Vienna

MANCHESTER United are there — or thereabouts anyway. Alex Ferguson's team came in from the cold of a bitter Viennese evening in the Ernst Happel Stadium here last night to celebrate a long-awaited appearance in the quarter-finals of the European Cup, the first by an English club in the competition for 11 years.

United's 2-0 victory over Rapid Vienna, coupled with Fenerbahce's defeat by a similar margin against Juventus in the Stadio delle Alpi, means that they will play Porto in March for a place in the last four, with the opening leg at Old Trafford.

For the moment United will be grateful simply to be alive at this level after home defeats by Fenerbahce and Juventus had threatened them with a third failure in the tournament in four seasons. They were also thankful that the decision of Marcello Lippi, the Juventus coach, to start the Fenerbahce match without Ferrara, Jugovic, Deschamps, who was injured,

and Boksic did not add a cruel twist to a night which saw United starting to look like a power in Europe again. Even now it would be foolish to read too much into last night's victory over a Rapid side who, like Juventus — already Group C winners — had nothing to play for except a little pride and the extension of a 15-match unbeaten home run in Europe. With Rapid going for victory just for the hang of it and United always likely to exploit shaky Viennese defending, the match remained open-ended. United owed much to Roy Keane, whose strength domi-

nated the midfield until he was forced off after a tackle with Köhnbauer 15 minutes from the end. His injury — a shin slashed to the bone which required 30 stitches — looks likely to keep him out until the new year. United's goals were scored by Ryan Giggs, who should have had more, and Eric Cantona who, after a quiet start became a growing influence on the game — much as he had done in the 2-0 win against Fenerbahce in Istanbul, where he also completed United's victory.

Yet again, however, inspirational goalkeeping by Peter Schmeichel underwrote a United success. Had he not scooped away a goal-bound header from Rene Wagner in the 16th minute the night might have gone horribly wrong for Ferguson and his players. So United have succeeded in the revamped European Cup where Arsenal, Leeds and Blackburn, apart from themselves, have failed in the Nineties. Porto will be a difficult hurdle; so far their form in Europe has put them in the Juventus class. But United have three months to get their act together. They knew that whatever they achieved here last night would be fruitless unless it was complemented by a

favourable result from the other side of the Alps in Turin. To that extent the evening was always going to be governed by distant echoes. A lot depended on United being able to recapture the shape, rhythm and spirit of Istanbul, where they had briefly appeared to be in control of their own destiny. And this is largely what happened. Rapid's defence soon betrayed signs of the disorganisation reminiscent of their 2-0 defeat at Old Trafford. Giggs waited an easy chance over the bar and Gary Neville's 25-yard drive was tipped over the top by Konsel.

When Rapid responded — and in a moment that recalled Banks's save from Pele in the 1970 World Cup — Schmeichel kept out Wagner's close-range downward header with one hand. Ratszyk having turned the defence on the left before crossing. Solskjaer then missed from point-blank range, but no matter. Cantona was now in the game and midway through the first half he gathered a ball from Giggs, turned a defender and threaded a square pass through a square defence to leave the Welshman with a chance that this time he did not miss, driving a low shot past Konsel. Giggs could and should have given United an un-

breakable grip on the match less than a minute after half-time. Solskjaer bobbed and weaved his way through the Rapid defence in the inside-left position before carefully setting up the simplest of opportunities. Giggs took aim but placed his shot wide.

After Konsel had made a brave double save from Butt, Cantona's firm header hit the outside of the near post. Then in the 71st minute Rapid were completely exposed as Beck-

ham's low centre from the right found Cantona sliding in at the far post to score the simplest of goals. The loss of Keane and Butt, injured by Zingler's challenge, slightly dampened the celebrations, but at the end of spring and Porto wine were beckoning Manchester United through winter's chill.

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Manchester United: Schmeichel; G. Neville (Geiger, 69), May, Pallister, Irwin, Bechtam, Butt (Foborovsky, 62), Keane (McClair, 77), Giggs, Cantona, Solskjaer. Referee: L. Suncel (Sweden).

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Sub plot that injects a sting in the tail



Frank Keating

THERE was a touching and dynastic coincidence at Cardiff Arms Park last Sunday, a romantic sub plot. It is fully a quarter of a century since big, bold, blond Derek Quinell (already a star Lion, but still uncapped by Wales) resolutely barged through a touchline wall of police stewards and spreadeagled a posse of gaping ambulance men in his desperation to take the field as replacement for Wales against France. He was on for 65 seconds before the final whistle blew. He never remotely touched the ball. But as he trooped off, his beam (and his team) memorably acclaimed the joy of his first cap — doubly so when the touchline coppers said they wouldn't, in the circus, press assault-and-battery charges.

Same place, different touchline (the old Cardiff changing rooms were on the south side), and there on Sunday was Quinell's son Craig straining just like his dad had to be summoned on for his first big-time Wales cap. He made it, although the prime touchline desperation these days seems more one of getting their great bulbous Mr Michelin track-

went down — and, with the help of the rest of the bench, taking an age intricately to tie his boot-laces. Teaguey, why hadn't they been done up already, I asked afterwards — "My bad blood circulation," he said. "It's hereditary, and the reason all Teagues roll their socks down."

The first-ever replacement in an international was Mike Gibson, of the Lions, in the summer of 1968. But perhaps the most celebrated British "super sub" who deserves to be enshrined in the all-time legend is another Welshman, Ray "Chico" Hopkins, of Maesteg and, still, the Universe: only two Test caps, both as sub for Gareth Edwards, once for Wales at Twickenham in 1970 and once for the Lions at Dunedin in 1971. Both matches won, both times Chico man of the match.

In soccer the first English sub to score was the canny Wolf Jimmy Mullin in 1950, but after the allowing of replacements in rugby in 1968 a sideline doctor always had to examine the player going off and then, the law said, "pronounce him to the referee as sufficiently hurt". Only this season has the law changed to allow tactical substitutions, like soccer world-wide now. But has this crucial fact yet sunk into the noddles of the European coaches? At Cardiff on Sunday Wales were being totally outplayed at everything, particularly the line-out, but the first two of their three substitutions were palpably for injuries and only the last, in the hopeless dying minutes, was tactical when the rampant young Quinell went on for the woefully ineffective ambling slip of the line-out, Derwyn Jones.

EVEN more glaringly dim was the England sub plot the previous day at Twickenham. England compete doggedly for more than an hour till some look spend even seven at 19-19. New Zealand bring on three fresh pairs of legs and, hell for leather, run out easy winners.

During which time the England management sit grim behind their bench sextet — each young man invigoratingly and twitching to start his stuff. Good heavens, it was only a friendly against the Baa-Baas; if England, during that last quarter, had sent on Clarke, Guscott, Bracken, and King or Greening to fill four gut-busted positions, they would not only have won and set up their season but underlined the crucial challenge for all places.

Or hadn't the RFU had time to notify them (in triplicate) that the rules had changed?

Unfancied Norwegians knock out Milan

THE NORWEGIANS of Rosenborg last night sprang one of the biggest surprises in European Cup history when they overcame Milan, five times winners, 2-1 in the San Siro to remove the Italians from the competition.

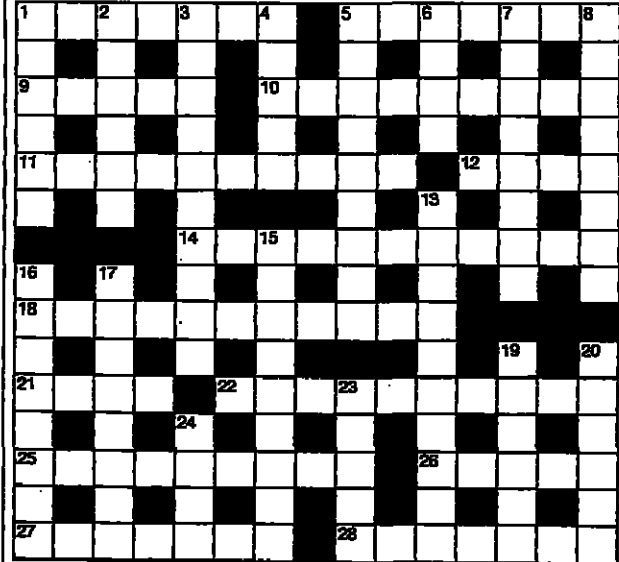
Rosenborg now entertain Juventus in the first leg of the quarter-finals on March 5, shattering expectations of an all-Italian confrontation in the last eight.

The Norwegians triumphed after Heggem struck in the 69th minute, restoring their lead after Dugarry scored for Milan just before half-time. Brattbakk hit Rosenborg's first in the 29th minute.

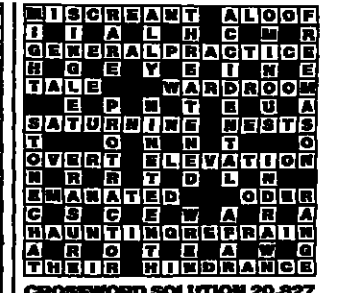
In the other quarter-finals, Ajax meet Atletico Madrid and Borussia Dortmund play Auxerre.

Guardian Crossword No 20,828

Set by Mercury

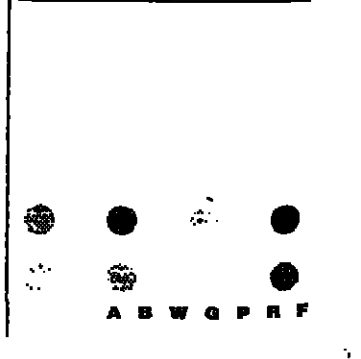


- Across**
- 1,5 Top performer doubling as an usherette? (7,7)
 - 9 Jog round front garden with no clothes on! (5)
 - 10 Something shouldered by a naval officer? (5)
 - 11 Cure can disorder before church event (10)
 - 12 Clutches £1,000 rent (4)
 - 14 A cargo I help to transport to the islands (11)
 - 18 Was grateful for a 2p version I created (11)
 - 21 A month off with male chief (4)
 - 22 Conquer walled city with a rifle (10)
 - 25 Channel Island gate I open leads to retreat (5)
 - 26 Where to ring an amateur radio enthusiast back (5)
 - 27 Counts as a good book (7)
 - 28 Melancholy now nurse is back on board (7)
- Down**
- 1,16 A capital event people go a long way to take part in? (5,5)
 - 2 Take off a black tube... (5)
 - 3... that is caught in wave of vessel in frozen waters (10)
 - 4 Birds standing around a diocese, for example (5)
 - 5 Rebel chief is captured by a six-footer (5)
 - 6 Incredible tin-opener has everything! (4)
 - 7 Foreign divorce learnt to dance (8)
 - 8,20 Barker has to appear before the judges during these (5,5)
 - 13 Irritated about fabulous bird returning material (10)



- 15** Their job doesn't pay, it's claimed (5)
- 16** (see 1 down)
- 17** Inspect ruminants appearing in a range of colours (5)
- 19** Files in set formation attack from above (5)
- 20** (see 8)
- 23** Game played by cold Nazi leader (5)
- 24** Watt and I read half of the telegram (4)
- Solution tomorrow**

STUCK? Then call our solutions line on 0924 666 228. Calls cost 50p per minute plus 10p for VAT. Service supplied by ATS.



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